

Notes

ROCKLAND AND YOOPERA: TWO MARVELS OF THE U.P.

—Candace Koski Janners, Vice President

An exciting “first” for PMMF and *Rockland*, the opera, occurred on January 27, 2013. The New World Premiere performance of *Rockland* was broadcast throughout the Upper Peninsula and northeastern Wisconsin by WNMU TV-13, Northern Michigan University’s public television station! During the 2011 premiere, the opera was streamed live on-line (another “first”!) by SoundQue/Opera Music Broadcast, Inc. The exposure was enormous, with 62,000 people in 19 countries and from every state in the U.S. documented on-line. SoundQue then edited this footage for television broadcast. Plans are on-going for potential future broadcasts of *Rockland* nationally.

Rockland It is a wonder that *Rockland* exists! Based on Alfred Laakso’s 1906 eye-witness account, the lineage of the opera developed, over a ten-year period, through Laakso’s grandson Andy Hill to promoter John Kiltinen; librettist Jussi Tapola; composer Jukka Linkola; Esa Ruuttunen, Artistic Director of the Jokilaakso Music Foundation; and Pine Mountain Music Festival. The Old World Premiere of *Rockland* was in Nivala, Finland in June 2011, and the New World Premiere in Houghton in July 2011—nearly simultaneous premieres in two countries on two continents in two languages sharing two singers. Audiences were wildly enthusiastic.

Although based on specific events in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in 1906, the opera deals with universal themes such as social justice, labor-management strife, unsafe working conditions, and the immigrant experience.

To dramatize the kind of stories upon which *Rockland* is based and to promote the opera, Mary Wright, community artist, developed an art project titled “The Story Line,” starting in 2009. This involved thousands of individuals who researched their ancestors and wrote up their stories. Displayed on cloths hung on “clothes-lines,” these stories became a dramatic art-piece illustrating connections between the past and present and among parents, grandparents and children. The unsung connections of so many others involved in *Rockland* provide a “back-story” to the opera and its evolution.

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MUSIC FROM MANY WATERS: THE 2013 SEASON

—Joshua Major, Artistic Director



Joshua Major

Welcome to our 23rd season! We’ll bring you a mix of old and new, familiar and unfamiliar, each concert a jewel to inspire, entertain and sparkle.

After last year’s stunning musical leadership in Sondheim’s *A Little Night Music*, Festival regular Jerry DePuit returns to lead the 2013 Resident Opera Artists in a program of his favorite selections from the revues of the past ten

years – Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Stephen Sondheim, Leonard Bernstein and others will be heard. The Revue will include a cello and violin to support Jerry’s brilliant arrangements. The ROA’s will also be heard in a “Viva Verdi!” concert to honor the 200th anniversary of the birth of this exceptional composer.

The Bergonzi String Quartet, in support of FinnFest and with their usual flair and sensitivity, will offer Sibelius’s seldom-heard string quartet. This is a rousing work, and it will be paired with one of Beethoven’s great string quartets.

In further support of FinnFest, we are proud to join forces with the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra to present an orchestra concert with all Finnish music. KSO’s own Joel Neves will lead the concert, which will feature Evan Premo in Jukka Linkola’s Bass Concerto commissioned by John and Pauline Kiltinen for FinnFest 2005, music of Sibelius, and much more. This will be a special event as we welcome back a symphony concert into our programming.

The Festival will also include returning organist David C. Jonies and pianist Louis Nagel. In a much-anticipated new concert, the season will feature the Common Ground Baroque Ensemble, a trio of fine Baroque instrumentalists on the cello, violin and theorbo who will play time-tested Spanish, Italian, and French music.

After last year’s enthusiastic response to our UPstarts! series, we will again offer a concert to support the professional ambitions of our regional musicians; they are first-rate, with bright futures ahead of them. This year we feature singers and instrumentalists from L’Anse, Escanaba, Marquette, Negaunee and Calumet.

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MANAGEMENT CHANGES

Executive direction is now provided by the four-person Executive Committee: Bill Leder, President; Candace Koski Janners, Vice President; Sigurds Janners, Treasurer; and Diane Eshbach, Secretary. Committees are often mocked, but in this case the accumulation of wisdom and energy is working well.

Karen Fredrickson, heretofore Office Manager and Bookkeeper, has been promoted to Chief of Staff. Jeni Edwards was previously promoted to Operations Manager.

Various volunteers are putting their shoulder to the wheel. David Geisler, a new trustee, has been lending invaluable assistance in matters great and small in the office. Judy Neuman continues her long-standing commitment to mail pick-up and check processing. Norma Nominelli oversees the selling of program ads, and Susan Hooker masterminds artist housing in the Keweenaw. Peter Van Pelt, Executive Director Emeritus, is helping in a number of areas.

One other item of management news does not affect the Festival directly, but will be of interest to our readers. Artistic Director Joshua Major, who was in charge of the opera program at the University of Michigan for 20 years, is now Chief of Opera Studies at New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. The Festival family congratulates him! He will continue to work with the Festival on essentially the same schedule as in the past.

MUSIC FROM MANY WATERS: THE 2013 SEASON

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One of my greatest sources of pride was to oversee the 2011 creation of *Rockland*, the U.P. opera commissioned by PMMF. This summer we will revisit that triumph through two exciting cinematic offerings. A screening of the premiere July 2011 performance of *Rockland* will be offered. Also, Suzanne Jurva's documentary film on the making of *Rockland* and the Story Line Project will be previewed.

The accomplishments of this Festival and the support of its communities continually amaze me. Its success is a testament to the efforts and dreams of many people and I consider myself fortunate to have been a part of it for ten years. To Peter, Lucy, Karen, Angela, Jeni, Kathy, Bill, Nathan, Patricia, Judy, Virginia, Jack and many more, I give a deeply heartfelt thank you for making this part of my life so remarkable and rewarding.

And a big thank you to you, the ticket buyers and supporters of the Festival – I look forward to seeing you in the concert halls this summer!

WE ARE INDEED PLAYING ON

—Bill Leder, President



Welcome to our 23rd season of superb classical music in Michigan's Upper Peninsula! We will be producing a cornucopia of instrumental and vocal works and will show a video presentation of our 2011 opera, *Rockland*. We join many others in welcoming FinnFest participants, and we have programmed lots of Finnish music in their honor.

Arts organizations serve and inspire the human instinct for beauty and harmony. In big cities it is easier to find financial and audience support, but we operate in a small-town environment. We believe in the importance of what we do, but the sources of support are much fewer than in big cities. This is why PMMF is so cherished and why we depend so much on the support of Friends.

We have had significant financial and managerial challenges in recent months. Although we presented an excellent season in 2012, donations and ticket sales were way below expectation. We are rebounding from a dismaying monetary loss by taking concerted steps to regain a sound financial footing. These efforts are working and include your continued support through attendance at events and donations to get back in the black at the end of 2013. See article on page 7.

Our Executive Director resigned in December. Currently we are filling this gap with a Management Group that I lead. See the other article on this page. The entire Board meets every other month, and we are effectively using virtual meeting technology so that all can participate. We are fortunate to have trustees and staff who are so knowledgeable and committed, not to mention our many volunteers who contribute time and talent and open their homes to our visiting artists.

If you have any questions or comments, I'd be pleased to hear from you. I can be reached at bleder@charter.net or 906-482-0158.

Nearly a decade ago (7/4/04), the Detroit Free Press said that PMMF is a "miracle of ambition, idiosyncrasy and geography." It is still true, and I could not agree more. With your continued support, we will keep it that way. Enjoy Season 23!

"OPERATION IMAGINATION:" FESTIVAL'S IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM

One of our favorite aspects of the Festival's work is OPERATION Imagination, an in-schools program. We send a small troupe of singers, with a pianist, to present the joys of singing and the fascination of opera.

The program is led by Ann Campbell, an experienced teacher and the chorus master for PMMF's opera productions. The school typically arranges for several classes to meet in the auditorium or gym, and the singers demonstrate different voice types and different ways of delivering a song, according to the context.

Then they present a couple of opera scenes, using simple props and sometimes involving children as "extras."

For the school teachers, the attentiveness of the children is often a revelation, as the experience brings out unsuspected levels of interest and participation. The children can sign up for a workshop, conducted a couple of weeks later, in which a limited number of children create their own opera scene and perform it for parents and others.

Some years ago OPERATION Imagination reached 3,900 students in 19 schools in four counties. Since then, funding limitations have reduced our reach; in 2013 we held sessions in six schools in the Keweenaw. The Festival welcomes donations made in support of OPERATION Imagination. And the schoolchildren and the school systems also appreciate them!

ROCKLAND AND YOOPERA! TWO MARVELS OF THE U.P.

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Some of this back-story will be illuminated by director Suzanne Jurva's documentary, *Yoopera!*. (The name combines the nickname for U.P. residents, "Yoopers," with the Finnish word for opera, "oopera.") Applying her award-winning story-telling skills, Ms. Jurva chronicles the evolution of *Rockland* in parallel with the Story Line Project. With local ties to the area, she realizes the wonder of how a small company in a small rural area could mount such an enormous creative endeavor as *Rockland*. Ms. Jurva states that "*Yoopera!* has appeal for all people interested in history, immigration, music, community art, or filmmaking."

Yoopera!

It is with great excitement that PMMF announces the first public screening of *Yoopera!* and a screening of *Rockland* at the Rozsa

Center for the Performing Arts in Houghton on June 22, coinciding with FinnFest 2013. It is hoped that *Yoopera!* will ultimately be released on NMU's public television station, WNMU TV-13.

The wonder of *Rockland* continues!

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE THE "JUICE"

—Diane Eshbach, Keweenaw Volunteer Chair



As we anticipate the curtain rising for another exciting Pine Mountain Music Festival season, we are so appreciative of the support of the many volunteers who make it happen. The lifeblood of any non-profit organization is the individuals who have a passion for the mission and are willing to give of their time and talents. Those eagerly-awaited few weeks in the summer culminate

a year's effort by so many to "produce superb classical music in Michigan's Upper Peninsula."

The roles of the volunteers are as varied as the performers and music of the season, but all are essential. We applaud the dedicated Board of Trustees who log countless hours all year round to keep the exceptional quality of music as part of our experience here in the Upper Peninsula. Each brings a different set of strengths to help the Board achieve its varied tasks. Because of the current management structure, those strengths have become even more important in meeting the needs of the Festival. We appreciate those who serve on committees and bring their expertise to assist the Festival.

*"...you can be an insider, part of
the team that makes it happen"*

Some volunteers encourage businesses to support the Festival by purchasing ads in the season's program. Others bake cookies and cakes to support an event. Volunteers open their homes to our talented performers providing much-appreciated housing and alleviating the costs of the Festival. Those housing arrangements are coordinated by a volunteer. Posters and publicity are distributed by volunteers. A volunteer is at each performance to greet and seat you. The Festival office has volunteers who faithfully help with mailings and daily tasks. Volunteers help the staff and Board organize fund-raising events such as the Fall Gala. Every volunteer's passion for the Festival is critical to keep the Pine Mountain Music Festival alive and well.

Each of the three areas the Festival serves, Dickinson, Marquette and the Keweenaw, has a need for volunteers. If you enjoy those weeks in the summer when we experience superb classical music, you can be an insider, part of the team that makes it happen. Call the PMMF office at 906-482-1542 or contact Diane Eshbach, Volunteer Chair for the Keweenaw at 906-482-4946.

Music

from many waters

2013 SEASON

We will have four Resident Opera Artists in residence this summer, and local singer Lara Neves will join them on all three events. The four ROAs are Julie Tabash, soprano, who was with us in 2012 as Despina in *Così fan tutte* and Anne in *A Little Night Music*; Cristina Bakhoun, mezzo, who is a graduate of New England Conservatory of Music; Kyle Tomlin, tenor, who appeared in *Rockland* in 2011 and in *A Little Night Music* in 2012; and Andrew McLaughlin, baritone, a University of Maryland graduate from the Washington, DC area.

OPENING GALAS

The three galas will be similar in format to our past galas. Lucy Thrasher, emcee-extraordinaire, will introduce the artists, who will sing opera and musical theatre selections in an engaging ambience – the Chippewa Club in Iron Mountain, and private homes in Marquette and Eagle Harbor.

Resident Opera Artists



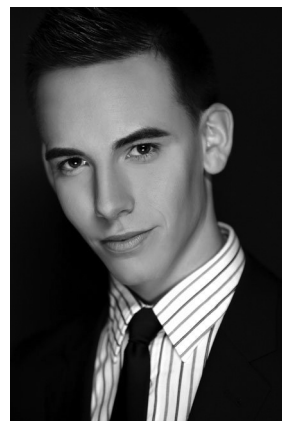
Julie Tabash



Cristina Bakhoun



Kyle Tomlin



Andrew McLaughlin

Resident Opera Artist Guest



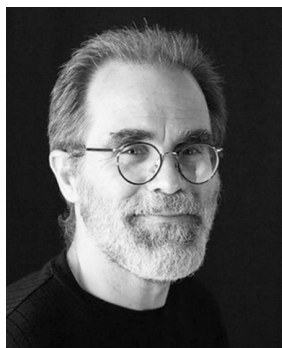
Lara Neves



Jerry DePuit

REVUE OF REVUES

Jerry DePuit, in his tenth season with us, is creating another revue based on his favorite selections from the past ten years. As in the past, Joshua Major will stage the revue, and it will include music by Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Stephen Sondheim, Leonard Bernstein, Richard Rodgers and other famous names.



Stephen Sulich

VIVA VERDI!

This opera concert, led by Festival favorite Stephen Sulich, will feature the music of the incomparable Verdi to celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth. The concert will include selections from *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Falstaff* and more.

UPSTARTS!

After last season's successful inauguration of our concert series featuring artists from the Upper Peninsula, we eagerly continue with the series. Our artists will be Kaylee Whitfield, bassoon, from Marquette, currently at University of North Texas; Anthony Barrette, saxophone, from Negaunee, currently at Michigan State; Tory Wood, soprano, from Escanaba, currently at Lawrence in Appleton; and Danielle Teter, soprano, from L'Anse, currently at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. They will be joined by pianist/flautist Susan Byykkonen from Calumet. Support the talent the U.P. is contributing to the future of classical music!



LOUIS NAGEL RETURNS!

Louis Nagel, who delighted PMMF audiences in 2008, returns as solo pianist to perform works by Liszt, Schubert and more. Louis brings his exciting playing to the Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts in Houghton and Reynolds Recital Hall in Marquette.

ROCKLAND AND YOOPERA!

To celebrate FinnFest, PMMF will show a DVD of the *Rockland* premiere on the movie screen at the Rozsa Center in Houghton – the very place where the 2011 production played to packed houses.

PMMF also presents the first public screening of Suzanne Jurva's documentary, *Yoopera!*, detailing the creation of *Rockland* and the Story Line Project. The Rockland showing will be free, and the *Yoopera!* audience will be asked for a small donation.



Joel Neves

FINNHARMONIC SYMPHONY

The PMMF orchestra and the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra join forces to celebrate FinnFest. The concert will be conducted by KSO's Joel Neves and will feature Jukka Linkola's Bass Concerto with Evan Premo as soloist, selections from Sibelius, and more music from Finland. This all-Finnish concert will have lots of variety and surprises.



Top left:
Kate Haynes

Top right:
Edith Hines

Left:
Matthew
Wadsworth



COMMON GROUND BAROQUE ENSEMBLE

PMMF welcomes this accomplished Baroque trio to the area. Violin, cello and theorbo (imagine a lute with a four-foot neck and a lot more strings) unite to give life to Spanish, French and Italian Baroque repertoire. They give old music urgency and importance in our contemporary world. This ensemble has played in Europe to great critical acclaim – expect an exciting evening!

UPstarts! Artists



Danielle Teter



Anthony Barrette



Kaylee Whitfield



Susan Byykkonen

DAVID C. JONIES ORGAN RECITAL



Returning to PMMF, David brings his illustrious playing after a much-loved concert in our 2007 season. He performs Handel's

Organ Concerto in B flat major, Bach Sonata no. 2, BWV 526, and works by Saint-Saëns, Cabanilles, Shearing and more.

BERGONZI STRING QUARTET



The BSQ returns and brings their charm, warmth, music-making and enthusiasm for the U.P. with them. To honor FinnFest they will play the Sibelius String Quartet, opus 56 in D minor, and one of Beethoven's string quartets.

2013 Season Events All events at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise noted. Schedule subject to change.	Dickinson Area	Keweenaw Area	Marquette Area	Other Locations
Opening Galas	June 11 (5 PM)	June 13 (6:30 PM)	June 10 (5:30 PM)	
Revue of Revues	June 16 (3 PM)	June 17	June 18	June 15 - Ironwood
Finnharmonic Symphony		June 20 June 23 (2 PM)		
Bergonzi String Quartet	June 24	June 22	June 26	
<i>Yoopera!</i> Documentary Screening		June 22 (1 PM)		
<i>Rockland</i> the Opera Screening		June 22 (3 PM)		
David C. Jonies Organ Recital	June 26	July 2	June 28	
Viva Verdi!	June 28	June 27	July 1	
UPstarts!: Featuring emerging professional musicians from the U.P.	July 3	July 11	July 7	June 29 - Ontonagon July 1 - Ironwood July 2 - Land O'Lakes July 8 - Munising July 9 - Escanaba
Louis Nagel Returns! – Piano Recital		July 6	July 9	
Common Ground Baroque Ensemble	July 11	July 13	July 10	
For information, call PMMF at 1-888-309-7861 or visit www.pmmf.org • Ticket brochures will be mailed in April • Tickets go on sale May 1				

FESTIVAL WELCOMES THREE NEW TRUSTEES

In recent months the Festival added three distinguished people to its Board of Trustees.

Dr. Daniel Arnold of Marquette is a retired oncologist who practiced in the Upper Peninsula for over 30 years. He and his wife, Ann, are long-time supporters of the Festival. He has played classical piano for many years, is active in the Marquette Piano Workshop, and has served on the board of Marquette Symphony Orchestra.

David Geisler, who lives in Calumet, recently retired from 40 years of corporate life in Chicago. Dave began attending PMMF concerts years ago while vacationing in the Copper Country. The presence of a first-class music festival in the U.P. made it all the easier to leave Chicago behind and he looks forward to inviting his Chicago friends up for the current season.

Abigayl Venman, a native of Lansing, Michigan, resides in New York City where she is the Associate Administrative Director of the Ellen and James S. Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts at The Juilliard School. Previously she worked for a classical artist management company and a music publishing house. A trained singer herself, she is pleased to join PMMF as the Festival provides an outlet for artistic excellence.

THE PINE MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL "CAST"

Board of Trustees

William Leder, President
Candace Koski Janners, Vice-President
Sigurds Janners, Treasurer
Diane Eshbach, Secretary

Marion Anderson-Peat	Joy Ibsen
Daniel Arnold	Robert Lind
Ellen Bechthold	Nicole Nason
Ellen Campbell	Michael Neuman
David Geisler	Bette Premo
Susan Hooker	Abigayl Venman

Staff

Joshua Major, Artistic Director
Karen Fredrickson, Chief of Staff
Jeni Edwards, Operations/Marketing Manager

Laura Jean Deming, Founder and Artistic Director Emerita
Peter Van Pelt, Executive Director Emeritus

PO Box 406 Hancock, MI 49930
(906) 482-1542 • www.pmmf.org

FESTIVAL FINANCES AND YOU: "GLORIOUS TRIUMPH" AWAITS

Over its 22-year history, Pine Mountain Music Festival has had surpluses in some years and deficits in other years. Even when deficits were disturbingly large, the Festival has always recovered. Now we are again in a situation where we have to work hard to recover from a serious deficit.

"These are the times that try men's souls," said Thomas Paine. His challenges were on a bigger scale than ours, but we feel somewhat the same way – 2013 will be a real test of the Festival and its supporters. We have to make up lost ground while still keeping the beat going. It is a daunting prospect, but we also remember that Thomas Paine said, "The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." And triumph we shall.

With that call to arms, we invite you to consider a gift, or an additional gift, to the Festival. From the start, Friends' donations have been the powerhouse that kept the Festival going. Now, as we approach the summer season when expenditures are the highest, the help of Friends becomes vital. Donations were badly down in 2012, and we must restore them to their previous level – so please help with a "more glorious triumph" donation right now! Thank you.

Please use the remittance slip below to make your tax-deductible donation. Thank you!

If you have made a donation recently, please know that you have the gratitude of the Board and staff, the artists, the concert-goers, and all the U.P. people who appreciate how the Festival enriches our communities.

Special Note to FinnFest visitors and others not familiar with Pine Mountain Music Festival

The Festival has a 22-year history of bringing classical music to the central and western Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northeastern Wisconsin. Since this region does not host many large corporations that can provide financial support, the Festival is dependent on individual donations; roughly half of the Festival's income is from Friends donations, followed by ticket sales, earned income, and corporate gifts and grants.

We invite donations from all comers, using the remittance slip below. Gifts of any size are welcome! Thank you.

"ADOPT" A RESIDENT OPERA ARTIST

For a donation of \$2,000, you can "adopt" a Resident Opera Artist. This gives you an opportunity to get to know an up-and-coming young opera singer and a peek behind the scenes of preparation for a concert, and it gives the singer a closer link to the community. Everybody wins! Call 906-482-1542 or e-mail festival@pmmf.org for more information.

SUPPORT PINE MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR A "MORE GLORIOUS TRIUMPH"

To: Pine Mountain Music Festival
PO Box 406, Hancock MI 49930

Date _____

Enclosed is my/our donation of \$ _____

☐ Check

☐ VISA or M/C # _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

I/We pledge to pay \$ _____ in _____ equal installments starting _____ (must conclude by 9/30/13).

My/Our name(s) _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Notes

MARKETING: THEME AND VARIATIONS

The theme for our 2013 season is adapted from *The Kalevala*, the Finnish national epic, which speaks of “Music from the many waters.” That phrase describes who we are, as we present great music events amid the Great Lakes and beautiful inland lakes and rivers.

We use many tools to inform the public and encourage attendance. One is this newsletter. Another is the website, www.pmmf.org; please visit! We send the ticket brochure to our full mail-list of about 7,000, and we put up posters throughout the area. We issue press releases about events and performers, we are interviewed on radio programs, and we give presentations to civic groups. We are very active on Facebook and Twitter.

But the most important marketing tool is something that *you* control – word of mouth. If you share your enthusiasm about the Festival, you will help us continue the musical tradition. Thank you!



VISIT US ONLINE

Scan this code with your smart
phone to learn more about the
Festival and this season's events.

FOLLOWING OUR STARS

Pine Mountain Music Festival has become an attractive and important stepping-stone for a number of young opera singers. One of our “alumni” is Keith Miller, who sang with PMMF in 2002 and 2003. He is now with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City singing varied name roles. In interviews, he generously credits PMMF as having given him his first opportunities in opera.

Another is Jessica Rose Cambio, who gave us a wonderful Violetta in *La Traviata* in 2010. She will cover the role of Giselda in the Opera Orchestra of New York production of *I Lombardi alla Prima Crociata* at Avery Fisher Hall later this year, and will sing Mimì in *La Bohème* at Royal Albert Hall in London in 2014.

Bernard Holcomb, who also starred in our *La Traviata* in 2010, is now in the Ryan Opera Center Young Artists Program at Lyric Opera of Chicago. Alex DeSocio, a 2012 PMMF singer, will be at Merola Opera Program this summer in San Francisco. Claire Shackleton, also a 2012 artist, will be at Central City Opera this summer. Ben Sieverding, who sang in *Rockland*, will be with Santa Fe Opera this summer.