



Summer 2010  
Newsletter



## Calendar of Events

### Friday, July 30

The Piper of Hamelin  
Children's Summer Camp  
Opera Performance  
7:00pm **Free Admission**  
United Methodist Church  
San Luis Obispo, CA

### Saturday, August 21

Broadway by the Sea  
Chapman Estate  
Shell Beach, CA  
4:00pm Concert  
Gate opens at 2:30pm

## Save the Date

**2010 - 2011 Met Live  
in HD Season Begins**  
(see insert for more details)  
Saturday, October 9, 2010  
10:00am PAC  
San Luis Obispo, CA

### 25th Anniversary Gala Concert

Friday, November 5, 2010  
7:30pm Clark Center  
Arroyo Grande, CA

### Barber of Seville

Friday, April 1, 2011  
7:00pm PAC  
Sunday, April 3, 2011  
2:00pm PAC  
San Luis Obispo, CA



## OperaSLO's First Executive Director

Dear OperaSLO Friends,

After a search of almost a year, including reviewing more than forty resumes and interviewing candidates (both local and national), I am delighted to announce that **Sharon Dobson** has been appointed the first **Executive Director** of Opera San Luis Obispo. Sharon is well known to many of you and is extremely well qualified to lead as chief executive of the company. She holds an MBA, with a concentration in Economics, Finance and Marketing. For many years, she has held the position of Lecturer in the Orfalea College of Business at Cal Poly, and has received many awards and honors, including Outstanding Finance and Marketing Lecturer and Faculty Associate of the Year. Prior to her teaching career, Sharon worked in a variety of important Cal Poly fiscal management positions including Fiscal Services Accounting Technician III, Foundation Accounts Receivable Supervisor, and Sponsored Programs Grant Analyst. Some of you may also recognize her as Marketing Manager for several years at Poly Plant Shop.

Sharon has strong connections in the community, having worked with many local businesses and non-profit organizations, particularly in the arts. She has had a long relationship with Opera San Luis Obispo (formerly Pacific Repertory Opera), serving multiple terms on the Board of Directors, as well as chairing committees, spearheading important projects and most recently serving as Acting Managing Director. Everyone who has worked with Sharon will attest to her high energy, creativity, and positive approach to everything she does. She brings passion and dedication, as well as important skills – and we look forward to many exciting and productive years under her leadership.

Please join me in welcoming Sharon and let us look forward to a wonderful 25th Anniversary Season.

Duejean Garrett  
President, Board of Directors



### MISSION STATEMENT

Opera San Luis Obispo is a professional company committed to enhancing cultural life by producing excellent performances that entertain and inspire our audience.

Opera San Luis Obispo is committed to four primary goals: producing operas of the highest artistic quality; bringing opera to a diverse audience of local residents and visitors; providing educational opportunities for youth; and ensuring sound fiscal management through audience development and fund raising.



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Aaron Graves  
Marcy Irving  
Tara Jacobi  
Mark Harasym  
Melissa Mertogul  
Jerry Vest

**Our Staff**

Robert Ashens  
Artistic Director  
robertashens@sbcglobal.net

Sharon Dobson  
Executive Director  
operaslo@sbcglobal.net

Christine Eagleson  
Artistic Associate

Caroline Gmelin  
Volunteer

Mary Kaney Holliday  
Director of Communications

Katelyn Holliday  
Event Planning/Public Relations

Rouvaishyana  
Chorus Director

Cynthia Cooley-Vest  
Volunteer

*Something to Sing About*

Dear friends, I'm thrilled to be writing today as Executive Director of Opera San Luis Obispo, enjoying the music I love so passionately. From the opening notes, to the final curtain, opera enchants us. A perfect combination of voice, music, story, beauty, emotional tension and theatrical spectacle, opera moves us to laughter and tears, puts an aria in our heart, and leaves us breathless. OperaSLO's upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season will be no exception.



We have many exciting events planned and a variety of ways to be connected and participate in the life and growth of this organization. Your involvement can be as easy as becoming a Friend on Facebook and spreading news about upcoming concerts and events. Please e-mail me at operaslo@sbcglobal.net, call 805.541.5369, or visit our website www.operaslo.org to learn more. Thank you for being involved.

*Sharon Dobson, Executive Director*



**You Make It Possible!**



For over 25 years, directors, principal singers and chorus, orchestra members, conductors, dedicated board members, administrative and production staff, patrons, donors and volunteers have labored in harmony to create memorable operatic moments and to steadily increase the professionalism and quality of productions.

Please join us in keeping opera alive! Your friendship and support are the heart and soul of OperaSLO, and are essential to continuing the ever-increasing quality of our productions over the next 25 years.

As we look with optimism and excitement to the future, we invite you to make an investment in our success as a thriving opera company with fully staged productions, educational outreach programs and special events. *Thank you for your continued support!*

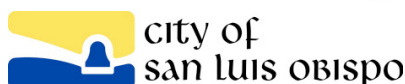
**OPERA LOVERS MEET**

September 1, 10:00am - October 6, 10:00am - November 3, 9:00am

All meetings are held at Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo

For more information visit [www.operaloversmeet.org](http://www.operaloversmeet.org)

*Special Thanks to our Sponsors and Contributors*



## 25th Anniversary Season Highlights

- Robert Ashens, Artistic Director

It gives me great pleasure to greet you in this first issue of BEHIND THE SCENES AT OperaSLO. OperaSLO enters its first summer season with the company's new name. Lots of activity.....and very exciting!



We celebrate through the beauty and power of Olympic Singing and with our 25th year underway, we have even more to celebrate:

OperaSLO's annual **SUMMER OPERA CAMP** comes alive for students ages 8-15. Each summer, for ten days, the students enjoy learning all about opera production by producing an opera (July 19-30), culminating in a public performance on **Friday, July 30 at 7:00pm at the United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo, CA.**

**BROADWAY BY THE SEA** at the beautiful Chapman Estate in Shell Beach, CA, features wonderful familiar and new pieces from the American Musical Theater genre. This year, I am pleased to include two Young Artists: Soprano, Marissa Bloom and Baritone, Rory Fratkin, both returning from recent advanced programs in opera and vocal performance. Also featured is Mezzo soprano, Kindra Scharich, making her OperaSLO debut with this program. With her will be the ever-energetic veteran of OperaSLO, Baritone, Igor Vieira. Enjoy the outdoor venue on **Saturday, August 21. Gate opens 2:30pm - Concert begins 4:00pm**

**Late September** brings cooling breezes and bright entertainment with our **YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT**. Part of OperaSLO's mentoring of talented area performers, this concert will feature operatic repertoire – solos and duets that showcase the best of the area's operatic youth, ready to launch their careers.

**One Night Only** The first of our two fully-staged productions this season is our **25th ANNIVERSARY GALA CONCERT**, a party of opera that begins as an evening visit to Prince Orlofsky's palace (the Prince of Fledermaus fame). His guests will entertain you with selections of operas in the company's 25-year history, with each piece staged into one storyline. The evening will bring surprise guests into Orlofsky's Great Hall, and also spotlights the talents of OperaSLO's chorus. At the **Clark Center, Arroyo Grande, CA, Friday, November 5, 7:30pm.**

**OPERA IN THE VINEYARD** at Vina Robles Winery in Paso Robles, CA, now an annual favorite, will return with popular opera gems, as well as a foretaste of the Spring production, *The Barber of Seville (Il barbiere di Siviglia)*. Great wine and great opera join together for an exciting vintage of the old and new. You'll get to meet cast members of the production and also experience thrilling new works for opera.

**THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER** is our major event in preparation for the future and introduces the flavors of our Spring Opera: *The Barber of Seville (Il barbiere di Siviglia)*. It is a living, breathing view of Seville and things Spanish. You'll feel like you're in the streets, complete with the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of the region! And what a fun way to enjoy supporting a wonderful opera company!

**THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (Il barbiere di Siviglia)** a new production by OperaSLO! Not produced by the company since 1996, this blockbuster hit by Gioacchino Rossini is fun for all ages. Remember Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd? This opera inspired many of the great cartoonists and became the plotline for films as well. High energy and laughs are in store at the **Performing Arts Center (PAC), San Luis Obispo, CA, Friday, April 1 and Sunday, April 3, 2011.**

**So come to the party and feast on the best of the best in Opera San Luis Obispo's 2010-2011 season! There's something great happening all year long!**

**You've Got Mail!**

We know it can seem like forever in between newsletters.  
Sign up for regular email updates at [operaslo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:operaslo@sbcglobal.net)



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# Children's Summer Opera Camp Performance

Friday, July 30, 7:00pm, Free Admission  
United Methodist Church  
1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo

## *The Piper of Hamelin*

Music by John Rutter, Libretto by Jeremy James Taylor



Following a two-week camp focusing on vocal technique, stage movement, musicianship and the use of props/costumes/makeup, our summer camp participants will perform "The Piper of Hamelin".

***This is an evening NOT to be missed! Reception immediately following.***



Alan Boehmer  
Music Director



Paul Woodring  
Accompanist  
& Assistant  
Music Director



Marissa Bloom  
Camp Counselor  
& Stage Director



Katelyn Holliday  
Co-Camp  
Counselor

*Special thanks to Drs. Jill Anderson and Steve Jobst, Helene Baker, Hind Foundation, Melissa Mertogul, Rita's Rainbows, Rotary Club of San Luis Obispo and Rotary Club of San Luis Obispo de Tolosa for making OperaSLO's 2010 Children's Summer Opera Camp possible.*