

# RIMROCK OPERA

# Aria News

P.O. BOX 11 BILLINGS, MT 59103 ~ 406-671-2214 ~ www.rimrockopera.org or Facebook ~ Spring 2011

## Upcoming Events

Puccini's

### Tosca

April 30, 7:30 PM

May 1, 3:00 PM

Alberta Bair Theater

### Summer Opera Festival

Sat. June 18, 7:30 PM

Shiloh United Methodist

1810 Shiloh Road

AND

Sat., June 25, 7:30 PM

With ROCK Camp Finale Show

Babcock Theater

### Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids (ROCK) Camp

June 20-25

## Next Season

### Opera 101: Backstage at the Opera Wednesdays in September

### Auction of Arias

Sat., September 24, 2011  
McCormick Café

Verdi's

### Rigoletto

October 8—9

Ward's

### The Crucible

April 28 - 29, 2012

ABT Box Office

406-256-6052

## Tosca tickets on sale now

**APRIL 30—MAY 1**—Rimrock Opera presents *Tosca*, an edge-of-the-seat action tale set amid political dissent in 1800 Rome. Floria Tosca, her lover, Cavaradosi, and Baron Scarpia, one of the most malevolent villains in all of opera, are wrenched into a love-hate-terror triangle while Puccini's grippingly enchanting music rockets the audience to a heart-stopping double-twist ending. Soprano Cassandra Norville sings the title role, with Jeffrey Grant Kitto, tenor and Doug Nagel, bass. Over 100 individuals comprise the cast, chorus, and Rimrock Opera orchestra, conducted by Andy Anderson of Mobile Opera, Mobile, Alabama.



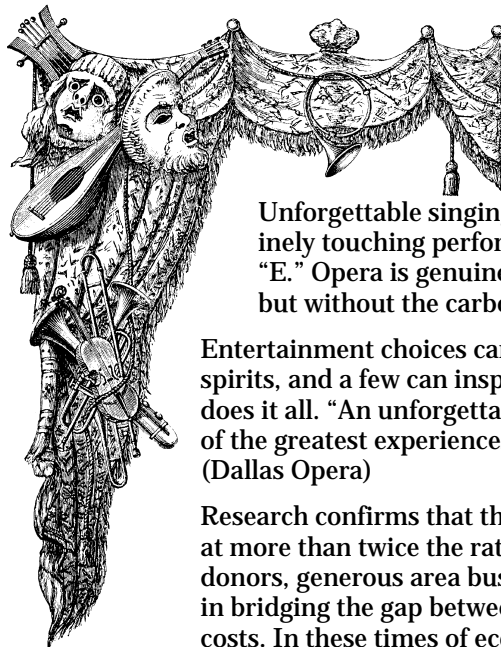
Cassandra Norville



Jeffrey Grant Kitto



Doug Nagel



## Awesome, riveting — that's Opera!

Unforgettable singing, sweeping orchestral interludes, and genuinely touching performances spell entertainment with a capital "E." Opera is genuine "Soul Food," filling and utterly delicious – but without the carbohydrates!

Entertainment choices can stimulate your eye, ear, and mind, lift your spirits, and a few can inspire your most heartfelt emotions. Only one does it all. "An unforgettable night at the opera will always rank as one of the greatest experiences a roomful of people can share."  
(Dallas Opera)

Research confirms that the cost of producing opera increases annually at more than twice the rate of the Consumer Price Index. Our faithful donors, generous area businesses and in-kind contributors are critical in bridging the gap between ticket revenue and seasonal production costs. In these times of economic difficulty, we deeply appreciate your partnership in the struggle to legitimize the arts as a necessary and worthy cause.

### Opera lovers, we need you and we thank you!

Please send the form below with your donation of any amount today to **Rimrock Opera, P. O. Box 11, Billings, MT 59103.** \*

*Lucinda Butler*

Lucinda Butler, President of the Board

*Douglas Nagel*

Douglas Nagel, Artistic Director

\*NOTE: RO does not have a physical address.

### I am proud to support the Rimrock Opera with my donation of:

\$5,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$2,500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my donation made to Rimrock Opera's Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to give a Memorial Donation in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check made out to "Rimrock Opera" or charge my Visa or MasterCard. (Processing fee, \$5.00)

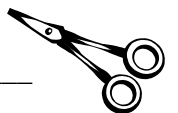
Account # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please acknowledge that this gift is from: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (Rimrock Opera does not share this information) \_\_\_\_\_

\*NOTE: RO does not have a physical address. Please use P. O. Box 11, Billings, MT 59103



## "The Night Harry Stopped Smoking" Tours Again



Billings Gazette Photo

Rimrock Opera's popular production of *The Night Harry Stopped Smoking* hit the road again this spring, teaching students the dangers of smoking through musical comedy. Rimrock Opera provides study guides in advance, outlining information about smoking risks and the art of singing. Performers answer questions following each show.

Artistic Director Doug Nagel staged the show with a mostly new cast. Education and Outreach Director Kristy Dallas sang a lead role as well as scheduling the tour at ten area schools where the show was seen by 2500 students.

Our wonderful pianist, Sandi Rabas returned, as did Maria Day, both of whom are veterans of several seasons. New ROCK Director (who is also Alberta Bair Theater Education Director) William Mouat was Harry, joining Ms. Dallas and Lance Hansen, Shirley Herman, Brittany Jacobsen, Jenna Johnson, and Sarah Day.

Rimrock Opera is proud of *The Night Harry Stopped Smoking* and its anti-tobacco message. To book the show for your school this fall, call 671-2214.

## Summer Opera Festival—Two Shows in June

Rimrock Opera's Artistic Director, Doug Nagel, announces two 2011 Summer Opera Festival performances featuring cuttings from some of the most beloved operas and Broadway's hottest new tickets. Hear showstoppers from *The Next Five Years*, *Wicked*, and *Showboat*; operas *Hansel and Gretel*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Rigoletto* and much more.



Special guest is **Brianne Roney**, 2nd place winner of the Regional Metropolitan Opera Auditions. Ms. Roney made her RO debut in *La traviata*.



Brianne

**Kristy Dallas, Jeffrey Grant Kitto, Lisa Lombardy, William Mouat, Doug Nagel, and Mary Ryan**, bow with RO debut artists **Kathleen Ferris, Solita Guerrero, Denise Huff, Angie Langeliers** and **Branden Martinez** in the constellation of stars. Noted pianist **Ashlee Young**, Billings Symphony soloist and competition winner, accompanies.

**Saturday, June 18, 7:30 PM**, Shiloh United Methodist Church, 1810 Shiloh Road.

**Saturday, June 25, 7:30 PM**, Babcock Theater. The program repeats, and features the Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids (ROCK) Summer Camp finale performance.

Tickets are \$20, available at the door of both venues.

For information, visit [www.rimrockopera.org](http://www.rimrockopera.org), or phone 406-671-2214.

### Sandi Rabas honored for decade of dedication



Rimrock Opera salutes Ms. Sandi Rabas as we mark her ten years of extraordinary musicianship with the company. We honor her thousands of hours as accompanist for rehearsals, Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids (ROCK), touring school shows, fundraisers and festivals; for serving as coach, composer, collaborator, co-star, cheerleader, crisis manager, performer, pit musician, titles operator, rehearsal rescuer, entertainer, problem-solver, comforter, and friend. On many of the countless occasions when Sandi has appeared as a Rimrock Opera Staff musician, she was actually serving entirely *gratis* — as her gift to opera, the art she loves.

Sandi, *YOU* are the "art" *WE* love! Thank you from the bottom of our grateful Rimrock Opera hearts.



## RO thanks Amy Logan — ROCK Artistic Director and Innovator

### From Gingerbread to ROCK

When a children's chorus was needed for *Hansel and Gretel*, Rimrock Opera's spring 2004 production, RO Artistic Director Doug Nagel approached Amy Logan to prepare a group of "gingerbread children." She did, they were hugely successful in the show and brimming with enthusiasm. The time seemed right to form an ongoing children's chorus.



Amy accepted the post of Artistic Director and set about to establish an auditioned chorus of superior quality, built on a solid foundation of music education. The group, comprising grades 1-12, settled on the catchy

moniker of ROCK—Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids.

ROCK summer camp under Amy's direction, with professional music staff, was added in 2005.

Under Amy's extraordinary vision and leadership, along with a teaching staff of professional artists, ROCK has grown from a handful to nearly 150 young singers.

ROCK expanded its horizons from mainstage choruses and stand-alone concerts to guest appearances with Billings Symphony, Mannheim Steamroller, and Rita Coolidge, to name a few. They have delighted audiences at the OperaFest galas, Big Sky State Games, Festival of Trees, Moss Mansion and many more.

Gifted with phenomenal musical talent, Amy Logan exhibits unfailing dedication to teaching and performing. Her influence is planted every day in the minds of students and adults.

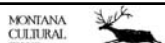
Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids has been blessed to reap the benefits of Amy's dedication to children for the past 8 years.

Amy steps down as ROCK Artistic Director in May. As a solo artist with Rimrock Opera, she is slated to sing the role of Abigail Williams in *The Crucible*, April 2012.

Brava, Amy! Thank you, and may your star shine ever brighter wherever you aim it.



Please support Rimrock Opera's major sponsors!



Montague's Jewelers ♦ Corning Companies  
Mary Alice Fortin Foundation for Youth Enrichment  
Mercedes Benz of Billings

April 30 and May 1 at Alberta Bair Theater  
Call for tickets: (406) 256-6052  
Puccini's *Tosca*

PRIMROCK  
OPERA  
P.O. Box 11 • Billings, MT 59103-0011  
[www.rimrockopera.org](http://www.rimrockopera.org)

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
Paid  
Billings MT  
Permit #1