

RIMROCK OPERA *Aria News*

P.O. BOX 11 BILLINGS, MT 59103 (406) 671-2214 www.rimrockopera.org or on Facebook December 2009

OperaFest and *La bohème* highlight 2010

Rimrock Opera hosts its annual fundraising dinner, auction, and fabulous operatic entertainment on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the Yellowstone Country Club. For reservations call (406) 671-2214.

Mark your calendar for Puccini's romantic, yet tragic, love story *La bohème* at the Alberta Bair Theater on Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25. Call the ABT box office at (406) 256-6052 to purchase tickets. The cast of Jeff Kitto (Rodolfo), Amy Logan (Mimi), Jan Michael Kliewer (Marcello), Laura Loge (Musetta), Chris Sheppard (Schaunard), Dennis Rupp (Colline) and Daren Small (Benoit/Alcindoro) join stage director Douglas Nagel and returning favorite, conductor Barbara Day Turner, in this exciting production. Sets come from Utah Festival Opera and costumes from Westendorf Emporium. The opera is sung in Italian, with English text projected above the stage. Rimrock Opera's orchestra, Adult Chorus, and children of ROCK join forces.



Laura Loge



Jeffrey Kitto

Upcoming RO Events

2009

Laurel Ford Christmas

December 6
1:00 & 3:00 shows
FREE admission!

ROCK with Rita Coolidge

December 11, 7:30 PM
Alberta Bair Theater

ROCK Holiday Concert

December 12, 7 PM
Skyview High School

2010

OperaFest

Saturday, April 10, 6PM
Yellowstone CC

Opera 101

Wednesdays 7-9 PM
Mar. 31, April 7 & 14

La bohème

Sat., April 24, 7:30 PM
Sun., April 25, 3 PM
Alberta Bair Theater

In Search of Beethoven

Movie location and
date TBA

The Alberta Bair Theater
Box office
(406) 256-6052

Butlers Awarded Volunteers of the Year!



The Billings Chamber of Commerce

acknowledges excellence in the Billings community through the Roche Jaune Awards. This year, thirteen awards were presented at the Alberta Bair Theater on November 19, 2009.

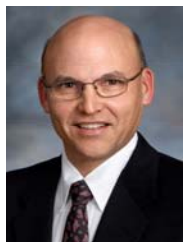
The Award for Adult Volunteer of the Year is given to an adult or adults whose volunteer efforts have made a significant impact on the Billings community. Dr. Steven

and Lucinda Butler are to be commended for their tireless volunteer commitment to the Rimrock Opera. Rimrock Opera is a critical arts organization to the Billings area and it is strengthened by the support of the Butlers.

The Butlers don't just show up to board meetings or work an event here and there; they are behind every function financially, in planning, and in execution. This husband and wife team is President and Vice President of Rimrock Opera's Board of Directors and their work includes everything from finding sponsors to finding stage props to hosting a fundraising event.

The Butlers also realize the importance of education by helping expose thousands of children to opera via Rimrock Opera's extensive school tour. Most recently, Rimrock Opera toured the state of Montana and Northern Wyoming with its highly successful show, "The Night Harry Stopped Smoking."

Rimrock Opera would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Cindy and Steve for



The mission of Rimrock Opera is to enhance the cultural life of this region by providing high quality opera productions and to make opera available to everyone through outreach presentations and educational programming.

I am proud to support the Rimrock Opera with my year-end 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 make a Memorial Donation in honor of _____

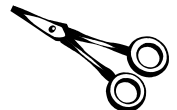
Please enclose a check made out to "Rimrock Opera" or charge my Visa or MasterCard. (Processing fee for cards is \$2.00)

Account # _____ - _____ - _____ Ex. Date _____ Authorized Signature _____

Please acknowledge that this gift is from: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (Rimrock Opera does not share this information) _____



Giving is a Gift

Philanthropy is a necessary component of our society. Donors and their dollars make a difference every day. Non-profit organizations cannot survive without individual donors. Government and private grants do not provide enough funding and are unpredictable. As a local nonprofit agency, we know firsthand the struggles that many nonprofits face. The boards of directors of these organizations must accept and ensure the financial stability of the organization. Obtaining donations is an ongoing necessity for any nonprofit group.

Rimrock Opera Company needs your gift. We hope that our organization reflects your personal interests, beliefs and passion. Among many "P's" of philanthropy, our favorites are: passion, prioritization, partnership, and persistence.

Please make our nonprofit a benefactor of your passion by giving to Rimrock Opera and Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids (ROCK). Cut off the donor slip on the opposite side of this newsletter and send your donation of any amount today. Thank you for your support!



Lucinda Butler, President of the Board



Douglas Nagel, General Director

MONTANA
CULTURAL
TRUST



Partial funding for this project was provided by a Legislative Grant.

Montague's Jewelers ♦ Corning Company
Mary Alice Fortin Foundation for Youth Enrichment
van Rensselaer Jewelers



Henrietta Johnstone
Sponsor of Main Stage Sets and Costumes



Meet Amy Logan—Artistic Director of ROCK and Musician Extraordinaire

Amy Logan made Rimrock Opera history without singing a note—she modeled for the first RO poster to feature a living personage. Her pose as Mimi on a Moss Mansion stairwell personified Puccini's *La bohème* in spring of 2005. Coming full circle five years later, she will actually be Mimi when she sings the famous leading role in RO's spring 2010 encore production of *La bohème*.

Let's face it: Amy Logan loves music. Instrumental music? She plays in orchestras and theater ensembles, teaches piano and clarinet in her private studio, and last year made her conducting debut with Missoula Messiah Festival. Musical Theater? Amy directs, stage manages, gathers props, and coordinates costumes. Vocal music? She teaches choral music at Skyview High School, and has been artistic director of ROCK since its inception six years ago. Singing solo? Amy has sung soprano roles in previous RO productions, including *Così fan tutte* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, and is a popular soloist in the community, appearing with Billings Symphony Orchestra, Billings Community Orchestra, is a member of RO's *From Met to Broadway* ensemble, and the High Plains Chamber Singers, to name but a few.

"Amy is the essence of unselfish giving, unfailing dedication to teaching and performing," said RO board president, Lucinda Butler. "Amy is a rare individual who has a gift of phenomenal musical talent. She does not keep this gift for herself

or for the sole advancement of her career. Her influence is planted every day in the minds of students and adults."

Rimrock Opera is blessed to reap the benefits of Amy's dedication to children. She and her staff have built ROCK to ever greater achievement, with over 80 youngsters participating this year. Amy's generous nature puts herself on the receiving end. As she sees it, "I am forever indebted to Rimrock Opera for the incredible opportunities it has provided me. From below the stage (in the pit!), backstage, onstage and with ROCK, I have had so many wonderful musical experiences. One of my greatest joys is that in *La bohème* I will share the stage with my own two children as they sing in the children's chorus."

Brava, Amy! You have accomplished so much already in your youthful years. We can hardly wait to see what you can do once you reach "maturity"!

Story by Gail Hein



ROCK Holiday Events

Sunday, December 6 at 1:00 PM Laurel Ford Christmas
Friday, December 11 at 7:30 PM with Rita Coolidge at ABT
Saturday, December 12 at 7:00 PM Skyview High School

RIMROCK
OPERA

P.O. Box 11 · Billings, MT 59103-0011
www.rimrockopera.org

Don't miss Puccini's *La bohème*
April 24 & 25 at Alberta Bair Theater
Call for tickets: (406) 256-6052

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