

# Bravo!

Lexington Opera Society Newsletter Vol. 2 Issue 4 Summer 2003  
www.lexingtonopera.com



## New LOS President



Dr. Michael Morrill took the reins of the Lexington Opera Society as its new president at the annual meeting in May. Heartfelt thanks are in order for outgoing president, Dr.

George Privett, whose efforts at securing the support of Liquor Barn as season sponsor and the organization of the successful Prelude to It's a Grand Night for Singing party raised the profile of the organization and assured its continued growth and success.

Morrill, owner of Family Foot Care, has been a member of the LOS board since 2002. "The success of the UK Opera program has been so exciting and has opened my eyes to a whole "new" world of music for me," said Morrill who has an extensive knowledge of symphonic music but considers himself to be a novice when it comes to opera. "I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of this Society." Morrill has also served as president of the Lexington Philharmonic and is an active member of his church.

Former real estate agent, Linde Couch, was elected Vice President, Rona Roberts of Roberts & Kay, is the new Secretary and Mary Nell McGary continues as Treasurer of the organization. Other LOS Board members for 2003-04 are listed on page 7.

## Successful Prelude Party Raises \$24,000 for Opera

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 'Prelude to Grand Night' was a smashing success, raising \$24,000 for the Lexington Opera Society! We couldn't have done it without the hard work of our Board of Directors and the Bravo Committee, but the real heroes were the generous supporters of UK Opera Theatre who flocked to the Downtown Arts Center on May 10 to enjoy a night of wine-tasting and a



Jennifer Paar accompanied by Tedrin Lindsay.

special preview of UKOT's season finale, "It's A Grand Night for Singing" (June 13-15). The 150 guests sampled wines, ranging from a delicate

white Pinot Grigio to a hearty deep-red Sangiovese, plus an assortment of domestic and English ales and Kentucky bourbons, nibbled on delicious hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, cheeses, and dessert treats, and bid enthusiastically on more than 175 items at the Silent and Live Auctions. Jennifer Sgroe, Michael Turay, Michele Czephyra, Linda Carey, George Privett, Roger Leasor, Jennifer Paar, and Wayne Sullivan sang selections from 'Grand Night' programs past and present, accompanied by Tedrin Blair Lindsay (see 'Spotlight' story on page 3 in this issue).

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## LOS Plans Fall Opera Trip

LOS is organizing another trip to New York City! Jennifer Coleman, UK Voice Performance doctoral graduate will be premiering at the New York City Opera as the First Lady in *The Magic Flute* on Oct. 5, 2003 and we want to cheer her on!!

### Here are the preliminary details:

Departing Lexington Sat. Oct. 4th 7:45 a.m. and returning Tuesday, Oct 7th, 7:35 p.m.

Round trip air fare, three nights at a West 48th Street hotel - dynamite location, very nice hotel! Roundtrip transportation from LaGuardia to Hotel and back, plus misc. charges, ticket to *The Magic Flute*, ticket to *Tristan and Isolde* (at the MET, Monday Oct. 6th - this is optional!) ONE group dinner - a post-opera dinner on Sunday, Oct. 5th. No other meals are included. There will be plenty of time for you to go out on your own and see a show on Saturday, shop, sight-see, etc!!

Maximum costs for travel and hotel should not exceed \$ 875 per person, double occupancy rooms. Single room charge will be an extra \$75 per night. We have to have a minimum of ten(10) participants to get the group room rate! For the NYC Opera we get group tickets for 20 or more!

If interested, please call 859-221-1183 & leave message, or e-mail [lindecouch@alltel.net](mailto:lindecouch@alltel.net) before July 15th, 2003.



Auction tables and food from the Annual Prelude to "It's A Grand Night for Singing" party

## UK Opera Theatre Presents "The Marriage of Figaro"

The cast has been selected for UK's fall production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and rehearsals will begin in August although cast members are already learning their roles. They will spend the summer being coached by Stephen Penn as they memorize their parts and become familiar with their characters. It takes an enormous amount of effort to produce an opera so plan now to attend a performance - and even see it twice so you will be sure to see both casts!



Edward White, Jr. and his wife, Katherine Sherwood will be seen in the fall production of "The Marriage of Figaro" with White in the title role. Photo by Tim Collins for UKOT

### The Cast

- Count Almaviva -  
*Mark Huseth*
- Countess Almaviva -  
*Jeryl Cunningham,*  
*Adriana Arbelaez-Moutz*
- Susanna -  
*Jennifer Sgroe, Jamie Tennant*
- Figaro -  
*Edward White, Jr.*
- Cherubino -  
*Katherine Sherwood,*  
*Christy Pritchard*
- Marcellina -  
*Rachel Black, Bethany Stiles*
- Basilio -  
*Nathan Munsen*
- Don Curzio -  
*Chuck Chandler*
- Bartolo - TBA
- Antonio - TBA
- Barbarina -  
*Kelly Wiggins, Kimberly Henshaw*
- Country Girls -  
*Bethany Shirley, Olivia Long*



## Spotlight on Tedrin Lindsay

***More than just the "piano man"***

Tedrin Blair Lindsay's piano arrangement of a well known Andrew Lloyd Weber song, which opened act two of *It's a Grand Night for Singing*, was truly "Music of the Night." So, too, were the various medleys of show tunes he arranged for this popular annual Lexington musical event presented by UK Opera Theatre. The Singletary Center stage is a far cry from his days providing music for his father's church services in a small Protestant church near the Vatican in Rome. Oh yes, and he was ten years old at the time! That's an interesting beginning for a musician so obviously at home with chic Broadway tunes.

Lindsay was born in Lexington but spent his childhood in Italy, the son of missionaries who encouraged his talents in music and languages (he is fluent in Italian and French). He returned to Asbury College for his undergraduate education, after completing a Licentiate in piano performance at the Royal Schools of Music in London, England. He was the first M.A. graduate (*summa cum laude*) of the new Institute of Performing Arts at Regent University in Virginia, with a double emphasis in music and communications. While still in graduate school, he worked as an intern for the off-Broadway group, Lamb's Theatre Company, on national tours of the new opera "Gifts of the Magi" (by Randy Courts and Mark St. Germain), based on two of O'Henry's best-known Christmas stories. After graduation, he moved to the Northeast where he spent several seasons working with various production companies including Bel Canto Opera, Golden Fleece Opera, Westchester Opera, and Rockwell Productions. He also appeared in several stage plays and films, most notably in the operatic fantasy "Luna" by Italian filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci; in his favorite scene, he sang "Happy Birthday" to the actor Matthew Barry, who played the son of the operatic heroine.

Returning to Lexington in the mid-1990s, Lindsay served as Artistic Director for Lexington Musical Theatre, working with director-choreographer Billy Breed on productions of "Cabaret"



and "Gifts of the Magi". As Music Director for Actors' Guild of Lexington, he wrote and performed an elaborate musical score for their production of "Angels in America: Perestroika", and won a coveted "Smitty Award" (the Ray Smith Award for Excellence in Theatre) in 1995 for his direction of AGL's "Falsettos".

By the late 1990s, Lindsay had decided that he preferred collaborative work to a solo career, which he found "too isolating"; he commented, "I love the stimulus of language provided by vocal music, particularly by opera". He began working regularly with UK Opera Theatre, serving as performance pianist/conductor and/or chorus master for *The Tender Land* (Copland) and *La Bohème* (Puccini) in 1999, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Menotti) in 2000 and 2002, and *A Little Night Music* (Sondheim) in 2002. In the Spring of 2003, Lindsay was Music Director and performance pianist for *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Previn). This complex and surprising score required an intense 3-hour performance at the keyboard in the new theatre at the Lexington's Downtown Arts Center, a task Lindsay accomplished with considerable panache.

Lindsay's most recent appearance with the UK Opera Theatre was with the 11<sup>th</sup> annual performance of "It's a Grand Night for Singing", perhaps the most popular of UKOT's productions each season. This is his fourth appearance as assistant Musical Director and perfor-

***continued on page 7***

# LOS Spring Opera Workshop

Workshop participants 2003



The 15th annual Opera Theatre Workshop sponsored by the Lexington Opera Society was held May 28-June 6, 2003.

While in many ways it was similar to those of the past few years—with Gail Robinson and Jim Rodgers as the leading faculty members—this year was unique in that, of a total of 14 students, 11 of them were from somewhere other than UK. They came from Louisiana, Texas, Minnesota, South Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky. Most had read about the workshop in *Classical Singer* magazine and seen the advertisement placed by LOS.

Not only were they geographically diverse, but were perhaps the most cohesive, most cooperative, easiest-to-work-with group we have ever had. We liked them and they liked us! Here are some of their comments:

"I enjoyed everything, but especially the master class."

"I liked best the master class with Ms. Robinson. That's why I came and she exceeded my expectations."

"It was amazing! A true learning experience. Gail, Stephen, Nan and, well, everybody here is excellent! It was great!!!"

"I really adored the master class experience with Professor Robinson and I appreciated the chance to perform the opera scenes."

The workshop ended with a performance of scenes from *Così fan tutte*, *Tartuffe*, *La Rondine* and *Norma*.

Plans are already underway for next year's workshop. For the most up to date information check the LOS website

Phyllis Jenness

***BRAVO!!***  
***Liquor Barn is once again a season sponsor of the Lexington Opera Society.***

# ***Our Sincere THANKS!***

**to the many donors who made this year's  
silent and live auctions such a great success!**

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UK President Lee Todd and  
Patsy Todd  
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# Become a part of the BRAVO Committee

Opera is flourishing in Kentucky and the University of Kentucky Opera program is recognized as one of the best in the country. How fortunate we are to be involved with these aspiring singers and this outstanding program! **Lexington Opera Society** invites you to consider becoming a part of the **BRAVO Committee** which provides the backbone of support for opera in central Kentucky. The contributions that you make are tax deductible, and your membership in the **BRAVO Committee** brings you glimpses of the magical world of opera from backstage as well as from the "Grand Circle". We plan educational events, group tours to the Metropolitan Opera and New York City Opera in New York, and offer many ways in which you can become involved in opera at the grass roots level. As a **BRAVO** member you also receive a discount (buy one ticket at full price and a second at half price) on single performance ticket purchases for UK Opera productions such as "The Marriage of Figaro" and the "Stars of Tomorrow Opera Gala", and reduced ticket prices for **BRAVO** events where you will have the opportunity to share your enthusiasm with others also drawn to opera. We hope you will join us in promoting this wonderful art form and become an active member.

## Membership Application

Lexington Opera Society  
BRAVO Committee

## Mail to:

Lexington Opera Society  
P.O. Box 11982  
Lexington, KY 40579-1982

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Circle category:

<b>Bravo Committee Membership</b>	<b>\$15.00 single, \$30.00 family</b>
<b>Opera Buff</b>	<b>\$25.00-\$50.00</b>
<b>Duet</b>	<b>\$51.00-\$100.00</b>
<b>Aria</b>	<b>\$101.00-\$500.00</b>
<b>Overture</b>	<b>\$501.00-\$1000.00</b>
<b>Figaro</b>	<b>\$1000.00 +</b>

***The Lexington Opera Society has launched its new website! We think you'll like what you see. Please help us by providing feedback and letting us know how you use the site and what you would like to see included.***

***[www.lexingtonopera.com](http://www.lexingtonopera.com)***

**"piano man" continued from page 2**

mance pianist with this show. He has a very full schedule as a professional accompanist for student and faculty recitals, concerts, and other vocal music performances at UK, at Morehead University, Central Christian Church, and other venues.

By his own count, Tedrin has given 53 performances in less than four months so far in 2003, and as he says "the year is by no means over"! But to hear Tedrin play is to sense immediately how deeply he loves music and performance. Music is quite literally his life's work. He says, "I love to wake up in the morning and think, "What I have to do today is to make music." But in his view, the true artist must be humble before his art: he recalls the words of the Austrian pianist (and concentration camp survivor) Lili Kraus: "If you go out onto the stage thinking 'Here I am! Notice what I can do!', you have already defeated the possibility of giving a moving performance." And he says, "I always think before walking out on stage, this music is greater than I am able to perform it. Please forgive me."

Lindsay is currently a PhD candidate in the UK School of Music's program of musicology. The topic of his thesis is the development of American opera at New York City Opera, under the direction of Julius Rudel, and he is keenly

interested in the many directions this venerable Old World art form is taking in the New World. He has taught numerous courses in music and communications at UK and Lexington Community College, and enjoys putting his extensive musicological expertise at the service of performance collaborations. This summer Lindsay will again accompany the American Spiritual Ensemble on its annual concert tour in Spain. He says of this group, "It is absolutely my favorite gig, because of the incredible energy of the singers and the director, UK Vocal Music Professor (and also UKOT's director) Everett McCorvey."

The gifted pianist does have room in his life for a few other things, however - he is a long-distance runner, an expert baker of unusual (and delicious!) desserts, and, in his own words, "a formidable foe in the card games Canasta, Hearts, and Spades".

Tedrin may have cut his teeth on "Onward Christian Soldiers" and other standard hymns, but he's come a long way musically (as well as literally) from those early days. Lexington is lucky to have him here, and long may his musical odyssey continue!

*Mary Powell*

## LOS 2003-2004 Board Members

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# Opera Calendar

## UK OPERA THEATRE

All tickets may be ordered by phone (257-4929) or go to Singletary Center Ticket Office on the corner of Rose Street and Euclid Avenue. Hours are 12 noon to 5 pm Mon. - TR; 12 noon to 6 pm FR.

**"The Marriage of Figaro"**, October 2nd, 3rd and 10th at 8 pm October 12th matinee 2 pm.  
Lexington Opera House Tickets TBA

### **Mission Statement of the Lexington Opera Society**

*The mission of the Lexington Opera Society is to enhance the general public's awareness and appreciation of opera in Central Kentucky and throughout the Commonwealth primarily through support of the opera program at the University of Kentucky and the continuation of its educational and public programs.*



2003 Grand Night performer, Nicole Wright, brought down the house with her rendition of "Cabaret"  
photo by Tim Collins for UKOT

## ***Lexington Opera Society***

***Newsletter Editor: Pat Trotter***

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***Lexington, KY 40579-1982***

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