Welcome to the 7th annual Opera Guild Gala

A year ago, we gathered at the Bryant Conference Center for an elegant evening in support of the University of Alabama Opera Theatre. Little did we know we would face COVID-19 and its global consequences only a few weeks later. Guild leadership considered cancelling the 2021 Gala, but in the spirit of hope and resilience, we instead organized this virtual evening of fun, festivity, and music. Thank you for your patronage and continued support of the UA Opera Theatre and its students. And now, the show must go on!

OFFICIAL WELCOME
Dr. Susan Fleming, Guild President

ANOTHER GREETING
Dr. Paul Houghtaling, Director of Opera

INVOCATION
Reverend Ashley Robinson, BM, ‘04, MM, ‘09

A GALA TRADITION
“Bucket of Spirits” Drawing #1
Dorothy Pieroni

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THE ENTERTAINMENT BEGINS

Vilja’s Lied from *Die lustige Witwe* (The Merry Widow), F. Lehár  
Lydia Beasley, DMA, ’18

“Sing But Don’t Tell” from *Sing But Don’t Tell*  
Jen Stephenson, DMA, ’16
Sam Carner and Derek Gregor  
J. Bradley Baker, DMA, ’14

A Gala Tradition continued  “Bucket of Spirits” Drawing #2  
Dorothy Pieroni

More Wonderful Entertainment

“Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle?”  
Mabs Seay, BM, ’05; MM, ‘11
Stephano’s aria from *Roméo et Juliette*, C. Gounod

“My Darling Jim” from *Glory Denied*  
Zoe Rose Proeber, MM ‘22
Tom Cipullo

"Seeräuber Jenny" ("Pirate Jenny")  
Jeanette Fontaine, DMA, ’12
from *Die Dreigroschenoper* (The Threepenny Opera)  
Christy Lee, BM,’90
Kurt Weill

LIVE AUCTION  
Dr. Francine Marasco

Please enjoy bidding on this gorgeous pendant from our friends at Fincher & Ozment.
MORE FABULOUS PERFORMANCES

“Chacun le sait” from *La Fille du Régiment*  
G. Donizetti  
Ibukun Babalola, BM, ‘16

“O mio babbino caro” from *Gianni Schicchi*  
G. Puccini  
Jennifer Bryant, DMA, ‘12

“Njegus’s Song” from *The Merry Widow*  
F. Lehár  
Paul Houghtaling  
Abilene, Texas, 1999

LIVE AUCTION FUN

Pay Paul to Shave His Mustache

Paul’s Beard “Appeal” (or lack thereof …)

Don’t miss your chance to throw in a few dollars to have Paul shave his crazy and controversial mustache. Yes . . . if the pot gets to $1000, Paul will shave!!

BEFORE ..................................................AFTER ☺ $$$$$

FINAL GROUP OF SUPERB ENTERTAINMENT

“When I Look at You”  
from *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, F. Wildhorn  
Paul Wolf, MM, ‘17

“Chacun le sait” from *La Fille du Régiment*  
G. Donizetti  
Kathleen Buccleugh, BM, ’09, MM, ‘11
*** LIVE FROM BRYANT-JORDAN HALL ***

“Bei Mannern, welche Liebe fühlen”  
from *Die Zauberflöte*  
W. A. Mozart  
Julia Schwendenmann, BM, ‘21  
Evan Fleming, MM, ’21

“Vesti la giubba” from *Pagliacci*  
R. Leoncavallo  
James Seay, DMA,’13

“Give Me No Body Without Your Soul”  
from *Blue Steel*, William Grant Still  
Zyda Culpepper, BM, ‘17

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**FAREWELL, CLOSING REMARKS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**  
Dr. Susan Fleming and Dr. Paul Houghtaling

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See you in person very soon, and don’t forget to save **February 4, 2022** for **BRAVO 2022! BACK TOGETHER AGAIN**

For information about the UA Opera Guild or to join, go to  
[https://opera.music.ua.edu/opera/ogua/](https://opera.music.ua.edu/opera/ogua/)

For dates of upcoming performances of the UA opera theatre, see  
[https://opera.music.ua.edu/seasons/2020-2021-season/](https://opera.music.ua.edu/seasons/2020-2021-season/)

**IN MEMORIAM**

In 2020 the Opera Guild lost a good friend and loyal supporter when Leah Ozment fell to Covid-19. Tonight, we remember Leah and what a blessing she was to the Guild, her family, UA, and the Tuscaloosa community. Despite this devastating loss, Leah’s husband Tom carries on the tradition with a generous gift of jewelry for our auction from Fincher and Ozment Jewelers. Thank you so very much.

Let us remember Leah as well as all our friends and colleagues who have been lost or affected by the pandemic. This evening is dedicated to them.