



August 2023

Dear fans of WCO and members of the Guild for WCO,

This is the month for renewal in the Guild for the Washington Concert Opera. We would like to invite current members to renew their memberships and other friends of WCO to consider joining the Guild. The covid shutdown affected the Guild's ability to offer many events and to support WCO as we like, but we feel we can resume our former activities and hope you will join us. There is also a special Young WCO group

The Guild has been active for more than 30 years in supporting WCO. We underwrite WCO singers, sponsor Peter Russell's Opera Gems lectures before opera performances, contribute to Opera Outside, and hold delicious brunches at the Army and Navy Club with speakers, such as bass-baritone Alan Held, director of the Cafritz Young Artists program Robert Ainsley, and bass Solomon Howard.

But our most important activity is the amazing trips to see operas around the country and the world. These are special trips for members. In August a group spent a week at the Santa Fe Opera, and next March we hope to journey to Vienna for *Cenerentola* and *Abduction from the Seraglio*. Past trips include frequent visits to the Metropolitan Opera, also to St. Louis, Chicago, Glimmerglass, Toronto, Berlin for 5 Strauss operas, Zurich (we had dinner with Larry Brownlee), and many more over the years. In addition to the operas we hear, there are amazing meals (10 courses at a castle on a hilltop in Italy) and trips to nearby attractions. The Travel Committee finds good hotels and restaurants and arranges for tickets.

Our Guild members get access to these trips and other special Guild events for the incredibly low cost of \$35 for a single and \$50 for a couple. How can you resist?

As we look forward to *Ermione* and *La Rondine* in the coming season, we hope our members will renew their memberships and that others will consider joining. You can join by mailing the attached form or by following the link to the Guild's part of the WCO website <https://concertopera.org/wco-guild>.

For questions, please email guildforwco@gmail.com.

If you have activities you would like the Guild to consider, please send them to Peggy Jones, Guild President at mcjones@earthlink.net.

Peggy Jones, President,
The Guild for Washington Concert Opera