Resident Artists from left to right: Brent Michael Smith, Piotr Buszewski, Claire de Monteil, Alice Chung, Pascale Spinney, and Ethan Vincent in *Cosi fan tutte*. Photo credit: Don Valentino
The mission of the Academy of Vocal Arts is to be the world's premier institution for training young artists as international opera soloists. With its rigorous instruction and coaching, as well as performance opportunities in concerts, recitals, and fully-staged operas, the Academy trains the most promising young singers from around the world, while also contributing to the performing arts community in the greater Philadelphia region.

Founded in 1934, the Academy of Vocal Arts is the only tuition-free institution dedicated exclusively to the study of voice. When Resident Artists graduate from AVA, they are prepared to share their gifts with audiences around the world, fulfilling not only their own hopes and dreams, but those of AVA’s wise and generous founder, Helen Corning Warden.

Gifted singers come to Philadelphia from all over the world to seek the exceptional guidance and training that the Academy of Vocal Arts offers. Admission to the tuition-free program is determined yearly by competitive auditions. While hundreds of hopeful singers apply, only 8-10 are accepted into the four-year program.

**AVA BOARD MEMBERS**
Harold F. (Rick) Pitcairn II, Chairman  
Susan E. Kane, Vice Chair and Treasurer  
Martha R. Hurt, Vice Chair & Secretary  
B.A. (Mackie) MacLean, Jr., Chairman Emeritus  
Dr. Romeo Abella  
Kenneth A. Ahl  
R. Randolph Apgar  
Christine Batchelor  
Barbara M. Donnelly Bentivoglio  
Judith Broudy  
Dr. Dante Cerza  
Alice Chase  
Kristin Davidson  
Joan DeJean  
Peter G. Gould  
I. Gail Howard  
Anthony P. Jannetta  
Dr. Richard Kent  
Neal W. Krouse  
Marx S. Leopold  
Joseph W. McGuire, Esq.  
Marlene F. Milner  
John D. Rollins  
Suzanne Root  
Thomas O’Rourke  
Dr. Ruth G. Ryave  
Carolyn H. Seidle  
Corey Smith  
Walter M. Strine Jr., Esq.  
Richard Troxell II  
P. Jeffrey Warden  
Gordon Wase, Esq.  
Charlotte H. Watts

**STAFF**
K. James McDowell  
President and Artistic Director  
Christofer Macatarsoris  
Jeanine B. Cowles Music Director  
Scott Guzielek  
Vice President and General Manager  
Bryan Hymel  
Vice President of Global and Artistic Outreach

**FINANCE**
Susan L. Mock, CPA  
Chief Financial Officer  
Andrea Sozing  
Business Manager  
Ludmila Caspi  
Accounting Associate

**DEVELOPMENT**
Robert W. Lyon  
Director of Institutional Advancement  
Christopher K. Feltham  
Director of Major Gifts  
Judith Lovat, Special Events Manager  
Leah Golub, Development Associate

**MARKETING**
Camille M. Mola  
Marketing and Public Relations Manager  
Bill Buddendorf  
Box Office Manager

**ADMINISTRATION**
Val J. Starr, Dean of Students  
José Meléndez, Assistant to the Music Director/Librarian  
Jonathan Oehler, Production Manager  
John Lane, Administrative Associate  
Rebecca Carr, Coordinator for Opera Outreach  
Stephen Trygar, Administrative Associate

**FACULTY**
Luis Ledesma, Voice Instructor  
Florence Quivar, Voice Instructor  
Bill Schuman, Voice Instructor  
Benita Valente, Voice Instructor  
Sally Wolf, Voice Instructor  
Luke Housner, Master Vocal Coach  
David A. Lofton, Master Vocal Coach  
Danielle Orlando, Master Vocal Coach  
Richard A. Raub, Master Vocal Coach  
Ghenady Meirson, Vocal Coach  
Audrey Saint-Gil, Vocal Coach  
Elise Auerbach, Pianist  
José Meléndez, Pianist  
Ting Ting Wong, Pianist

**CLASS INSTRUCTORS**
Annick Tanguy Applewhite  
French Instructor  
Gudrun von Auenmueller  
German Instructor  
Ennio Brugnolo, Italian Instructor  
Charles Conwell, Stage Combat  
Debra DeVries, English as a Second Language Instructor  
Thor Eckert, Professional Development  
Valentín Fernández, Spanish Instructor  
Lisa Lovelace, Stage Movement  
Robert Rowland, History of Opera  
Robert Thayer Sataloff, M.D. D.M.A., Voice Science

**EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS**
Kay Bossone  
Dr. Elizabeth M. Bowden  
Dr. Raymond Friday*  
Lucinda S. Landreth  
John A. Nyheim  
Francis J. Palamara  
Laren Pitcairn*  
Edith A. Reinhardt  
Ann R. Stephenson  
Franca C. Warden

*In memoriam
Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to present High Notes, the annual report of the Academy of Vocal Arts. This report covers our most recent fiscal year, from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Aside from working on the four fully-staged operas and singing in frequent concerts, recitals, lectures, and informal gatherings, the Resident Artists were busy preparing for the demands of their future professional careers. They receive many hours of vocal training and coaching each week, in addition to lessons in languages, stage combat, stage interpretation, and professional development. Behind the success of each AVA Resident Artist is the outstanding AVA faculty.

2018-2019 was another successful year of accomplishments at AVA, and our Resident Artists won many major awards: Piotr Buszewski, Meryl Dominguez, Gabriela Flores, Mackenzie Gotcher, Rebecca Gulinello, Ethan Vincent, and Hannah Ludwig (AVA ’18) were 2018 Philadelphia District Winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Meryl Dominguez advanced to the Semi-Final round, and Piotr Buszewski was named a 2019 National Finalist. Mr. Buszewski also won 1st prize in the Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition and was named an Encouragement Award winner at the Operalia World Opera Competition. Ethan Vincent won 1st place, the Audience Choice and the Ava Franchi Music Awards at the Vero Beach Opera Rising Stars Competition, and he was the Second Prize Winner of the 2019 Nicola Martinucci Competition in Lucca, Italy. He also won the YAVI Concert Series Grant, awarded by the Gerda Lissner Foundation.

We also graduated eight Resident Artists to promising careers. Piotr Buszewski, Meryl Dominguez, Gabriela Flores, Roy Hage, John Matthew Myers, Ethan Vincent, Matthew White, and Anthony Whitson-Martini graduated with Artist Diplomas, and we wish them all well!

We hope that you had the opportunity to join us this past season to see our Resident Artists in action. Please consider supporting us in the upcoming season, by attending AVA performances and contributing to the tuition-free training of these outstanding young artists. Thank you for being a valuable member of the AVA family. It is through your support that the Resident Artists and the Academy of Vocal Arts continue to enjoy great success!

Warm regards,

K. James McDowell
President and Artistic Director
The Academy of Vocal Arts presented over forty concerts and performances with approximately 10,000 attendees during the 2018-2019 season.

The Opera Theatre season began with a black-tie Opening Night Celebration, which featured a double-bill of Puccini’s one-act operas: Le Villi, conducted by Richard A. Raub, and Suor Angelica, conducted by Maestro Christofer Macatsoris. Directed by David Gately, this unique two-part production lent itself beautifully to a celebratory evening of hors d’oeuvres, a seated dinner, dessert and a Champagne toast to the 2018-19 season! In addition to Center City performances, this double-bill was performed in Haverford, Bucks County, and at the Zoellner Arts Center at Lehigh University.

This winter, Antonín Dvořák’s Rusalka was performed for the very first time at AVA! The production, which was directed by K. James McDowell, featured beautiful lush greenery as the backdrop for wood sprites and water nymphs in this fairytale-inspired opera, and Music Director Luke Housner accompanied at the piano.

The spring production of Mozart’s Così fan tutte was conducted by Maestro Christofer Macatsoris and directed by Dorothy Danner, and it was performed in Center City and Haverford.

The season’s final opera was Charles Gounod’s Roméo et Juliette. Conducted by Steven Mosteller and directed by Jeffrey Marc Buchman, it was staged in Center City, Bucks County, and Haverford.

Resident Artists also sang in the annual Giargiari Bel Canto Competition, which was held at the Kimmel Center’s Perelman Theater. Rebecca Gulinello won 1st Prize, Brent Michael Smith won 2nd Prize, and Meryl Dominguez won the Audience Favorite Award. Following the competition, audience members were treated to a special surprise performance by AVA alumnus and newly-named Vice President of Global and Artistic Outreach, Bryan Hymel.

AVA subscribers and patrons were invited to Opera Previews throughout the season. These free and informal lectures have continued to be very popular with our audiences, as they are a great way to get a behind-the-scenes look at the rehearsal process while learning more about the opera.

Other concerts this season included the New Artist Recital, Russian Romances, Jubilé!, a program of German song repertoire, a program of French song repertoire, and the Farewell Recital.
AVA bid a fond farewell to eight Resident Artists this year. We will miss these talented singers, but we look forward to following their promising careers around the world.

PIOTR BUSZEWSKI, TENOR
Memorable AVA Roles: The Prince, Rusalka; Loge, Das Rheingold; Monostatos, Die Zauberflöte; Edgardo, Lucia di Lammermoor; Courier, The Demon; Guccio, Gianni Schicchi; Tinca, Il tabarro; Brühlmann, Werther; Flaminio, L’amore dei tre re.
Upcoming: Nemorino, L’elisir d’amore with Oper Leipzig; Faust, La damnation de Faust with Filarmonica De Stat Transilvania; Camille, The Merry Widow in Hong Kong with Musica Viva; Duke, Rigoletto with Florida Grand Opera, Rinuccio, Gianni Schicchi with San Diego Opera, Il Cappello di Paglia with Opera Graz; The 10th International Stanislaw Moniuszko Vocal Competition; The Loren L. Zachary Society Anniversary Celebration Grand Finals Concert.

MERYL DOMINGUEZ, SOPRANO
Memorable AVA Roles: Juliette, Roméo et Juliette; Suor Zelatrice, Suor Angelica; Violetta, La traviata; Zerbinetta and Naiad, Ariadne auf Naxos; Woglinde; Das Rheingold; The Queen of The Night, Die Zauberflöte; Lucia, Lucia di Lammermoor; Nella, Gianni Schicchi; Sophie, Werther; Donna Anna, Don Giovanni.
Upcoming: Adina, L’elisir d’amore, and Naiad, Ariadne auf Naxos, both with Festival of the Aegean; Soprano Soloist in Mozart’s Coronation Mass in Vienna and Lisbon with Mid-America Productions.

GABRIELA FLORES, MEZZO-SOPRANO
Memorable AVA Roles: Stéphano, Roméo et Juliette; Dorabella, Cosi fan tutte; Maestra delle Novizie, Suor Angelica; Wood Sprite, Rusalka; Annina, La traviata; Dryad, Ariadne auf Naxos; Erda, Das Rheingold; Azucena, Il trovatore.
Upcoming: Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist at LA Opera.

JOHN MATTHEW MYERS, TENOR
Memorable AVA Roles: Alfredo, La traviata; Tamino, Die Zauberflöte; Arturo, Lucia di Lammermoor; Duke, Rigoletto; Roméo, Roméo et Juliette.

ROY HAGE, TENOR
Memorable AVA Roles: The Prince, Rusalka; Bacchus, Ariadne auf Naxos; First Armored Man, Die Zauberflöte; Prince Sinodal, The Demon; Duke, Rigoletto.
Upcoming: Ravinia Festival’s Steans Music Institute; Das Lied von der Erde with Greta Music; covering roles in Pique Dame and Der Rosenkavalier at the Metropolitan Opera; tenor soloist in Beethoven’s Mass in C Major and Choral Fantasy with the Santa Barbara Symphony.

ETHAN VINCENT, BARITONE
Memorable AVA Roles: Guglielmo Wulf, Le Villi; Alberich, Das Rheingold; Count di Luna, Il trovatore; title roles in The Demon, Rigoletto, and Don Giovanni; Pinellino, Gianni Schicchi; Albert, Werther.
Upcoming: Count Tomsky (cover), Pique Dame with Lyric Opera of Chicago; The Imperial Commissioner, Madama Butterfly with Opera Philadelphia; Belcore, L’elisir d’amore with Indianapolis Opera.

MATTHEW WHITE, TENOR
Memorable AVA Roles: Roméo, Roméo et Juliette; Roberto, Le Villi; Commissionerio and Un uomo, La traviata; Scaramuccio, Ariadne auf Naxos; Second Priest, Die Zauberflöte; Edgardo, Lucia di Lammermoor; Courier, The Demon; Gherardo, Gianni Schicchi; title role, Werther; Avito, L’amore dei tre re.
Upcoming: Duke, Rigoletto with Edmonton Opera; tenor soloist in Stravinsky’s Pulcinella with Dallas Opera; Lt. Pinkerton, Madama Butterfly with Tulsa Opera.

ANTHONY WHITSON-MARTINI, BARITONE
Memorable AVA Roles: Paris, Roméo et Juliette, Guglielmo, Cosi fan tutte, Wig Maker and Harlequin, Ariadne auf Naxos; Papageno, Die Zauberflöte; Usher & Ceprano, Rigoletto; Spinellocco and Ser Amantino di Nicolao, Gianni Schicchi; Johann, Werther; Masetto, Don Giovanni.
Upcoming: Engagements with San Diego Opera.
OPENING NIGHT OF THE 2018-2019 SEASON

1 Dr. Mae Pasquariello with Anthony and Sally Jannetta
2 Drs. Bruce and Toby Eisenstein, with Leon and Fran Levy
3 Allen Black, Randy Apgar, I. Gail Howard, and Paul Murray
4 Dr. Lamberto Bentivoglio, Franca Warden, Diane Ahl, and Barbara Donnelly Bentivoglio
5 Theresa and John Rollins, with Chair of the Opening Night celebration, Dr. Suzanne Root
6 Dr. Elias Packman and Kay Bossone

All photos by Philly ChitChat and Don Valentino
Nearly forty Angels and Benefactors gathered at the Haverford home of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Broudy in anticipation of the 2019 *Viva la Voce!* Gala. Guests enjoyed an intimate program of arias and duets by AVA Resident Artists Gabriela Flores, Renée Richardson, Timothy Murray, and Oliver Sewell, with an appearance by AVA alumnus and Vice President, Bryan Hymel.

All photos by Don Valentino
The Academy of Vocal Arts commemorated 84 years of operatic excellence at the 2019 Viva la Voce! Gala. Over 300 guests attended this spectacular celebration at the Barnes Foundation. The evening began with a cocktail hour, during which guests were invited to bid on a variety of items in the silent auction while also exploring the Barnes’ famous collection.

Dinner was served as Resident Artists sang a program of arias and ensembles, accompanied by Master Vocal Coach, Richard A. Raub. The musical program included a variety of operatic favorites, including a show-stopping three-tenor rendition of “Nessun dorma” from Turandot. AVA alumnus Richard Troxell led a live auction, where guests eagerly bid on items including week-long getaways to destinations such as Paris, St. Lucia, and Tuscany!

The evening concluded after guests enjoyed dessert and dancing with the Rich Posmontier Ensemble.

We give our most sincere thanks to everyone who supported this Gala, under the leadership of Gala Co-Chairs, Judith Broudy and Elias Packman.

AVA Emeritus Board members, Lucinda S. Landreth and Ann R. Stephenson were honored with the AVA Board of Directors Outstanding Service Award. Peter Benoliel and Willo Carey were honored with the AVA Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award.

The Gala Committee of the AVA Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who attended for making the event such a spectacular success! Approximately $260,000 was raised for the AVA Scholarship Fund.

AVA would like to extend a special thank you to our corporate and foundation sponsors: Mike Paolone and Merrill Lynch; The Rose Group; First Priority Bank; KDI; Quaker Chemical; Pitcairn; WRTI 90.1FM; Francis Ford Coppola Winery; and Liberty Business Strategies.
THURSDAY APRIL 25, 2019.
AVA welcomed over 130 of Philadelphia’s Young Professionals (ages 40 and under) into the Helen Corning Warden Theater for an exclusive performance of Gounod’s Roméo et Juliette, before it opened to the public.

At intermission, Young Professionals enjoyed wine and light bites in the front hall and in the courtyard. Following the performance, they were invited to a Champagne toast, where they congratulated the singers.

This inaugural event was a great success, and we look forward to inviting Young Professionals back to AVA in the 2019-2020 season!

This performance was generously underwritten by Charlotte H. Watts.

The 2018-2019 Opera Outreach program engaged students from twenty-seven public, private, charter and home school groups across the greater Philadelphia region. Many long-time participants attended the performances, along with several new participants. Over 1,300 students, teachers, and chaperones attended special matinee performances of Puccini’s Le Villi and Gounod’s Roméo et Juliette.

Prior to each matinee, students and teachers received comprehensive study guides, which outlined the history of the specific opera, while also providing general information about opera as an art form.

Following each performance, the Resident Artists remained onstage to answer questions from eager audience members.

To learn more about the Academy of Vocal Arts’ Opera Outreach program or to help offer Opera Outreach to a school near you, contact Rebecca Carr at rcarr@avaopera.org

All photos by Don Valentino
All photos courtesy of Rebecca Carr
Highlights of **JOYCE DIDONATO’S** upcoming season include the title roles in *Agrippina* and *Semiramide* with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the Gran Teatre del Liceu, respectively. She will return to the Metropolitan Opera to sing the role of Charlotte in *Werther*, and she will also continue on her worldwide tour with Il Pomo d’Oro to present her album, *In War and Peace*. In September, Joyce was named “Female Singer of the Year” for her new album “Songplay” by OPUS KLASSIK.

**JOYCE EL-KHOURY’S** debut solo album, “Écho,” received a Juno Nomination for Classical Album of the Year. She was also listed in Operawire’s “Best of 2018” list. This season she will return to the Canadian Opera Company to sing the role of Liù in *Turandot*.

**MICHAEL FABIANO** will sing many roles this season, including the role of Chevalier des Grieux in *Manon* at the Metropolitan Opera this fall. He will return to the Opéra National de Paris to sing the title role in both *Don Carlo* and *Les contes d’Hoffmann*. He will sing the role of Don José in *Carmen* at the Staatsoper unter den Linden in Berlin, Alfredo in *La traviata* at the Teatro Real de Madrid, and he will return to the title role in *Don Carlo* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He recently released his debut solo recording of arias by Verdi and Donizetti.

**OTHALIE GRAHAM** will sing the role of Lady Macbeth with both Toledo Opera as well as Opera Carolina. She will appear as a soloist with the Sacramento Choral Society and the Reading Symphony Orchestra for the Verdi Requiem, and she will also appear as the Soprano Soloist with the Mississippi Symphony and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra for Beethoven’s Ninth.

**PATRICK GUETTI** sang the role of Snug in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* with Opera Philadelphia last season. He will make his Metropolitan Opera debut as Sarastro in the Julie Taymor production of *The Magic Flute*. He will also join the ensemble at Deutsche Oper Berlin, where he will sing in *Aida*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Tosca*, *Turandot*, *La traviata*, *Un ballo in maschera*, *La forza del destino*, and *Adriana Lecouvreur*.

**JONAS HACKER** made his main-stage debut as the Novice in Britten’s *Billy Budd* with Central City Opera this summer. This fall, he will make his debut with Arizona Opera, singing the role of Timothy Laughlin in *Fellow Travelers*. He will join the Philadelphia Orchestra as the Tenor Soloist in Bach’s *Mass in B Minor* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, as well as the Tenor Soloist in Handel’s *Messiah*.

In addition to stepping into the role of AVA’s Vice President of Global and...
Artistic Outreach, Bryan Hymel sang the role of Don José in Carmen this summer at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. His upcoming season includes the role of Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly with Opera Philadelphia, Faust in La Damnation de Faust at the Metropolitan Opera, and the title role in Don Carlo with the Greek National Opera.

Highlights of the coming season for Marina Costa-Jackson include the roles of Mimi in La bohème with LA Opera, Tatyana in Eugene Onegin with Seattle Opera, Leonora in Il trovatore with Oper Köln, Amelia in Simon Boccanegra with the Washington Concert Opera, Nedda in Pagliacci with Michigan Opera Theater, and Mimì with LA Opera. She recently sang the role of Donna Anna in Don Giovanni with the Washington National Opera, and Liù in Turandot with the Canadian Opera Company. She will return to the role of Violetta in La traviata with Seattle Opera, as well as in Dresden.

Vanessa Vasquez made her Opera Philadelphia debut as Mimi in La bohème. She returned to the same role to open the Santa Fe Opera season this summer, and received rave reviews. She sang the role of Violetta in La traviata with Arizona Opera. This season, she will sing the roles of Donna Anna in Don Giovanni with the Washington National Opera, and Liù in Turandot with the Canadian Opera Company. She will return to the role of Violetta in La traviata with Seattle Opera.

This summer, Corinne Winters sang the role of Leïla in The Pearl Fishers with Santa Fe Opera. This season she will sing the title role in Rusalka in Luxembourg, as well as with the English National Opera. She will also sing the title role in Halka at the Theater an der Wien.

Upcoming roles include the title roles in Manon and Rusalka in Vienna and Santa Fe, respectively.


AVA ALUMNI NEWS 2018/2019

SCOTT GUZIELEK was named the Vice President and General Manager of the Academy of Vocal Arts. Mr. Guzielek has served as Director of Artistic Operations at Palm Beach Opera, as well as Artistic Administrator at Washington National Opera.

“The Board and I look forward to working closely with Scott. Not only is he a skilled leader, he is passionate about the training and support of the next generation of great operatic talent. Scott will be a vital member of the arts community in Philadelphia and we are delighted by his appointment.”
—Harold F. (Rick) Pitcairn II, Chairman of the Board of Directors

“It is with great enthusiasm that I will join the leadership team of AVA in this newly-created role...I look forward toembarking on this exciting new opportunity to ensure that AVA continues to be an indispensable part of Philadelphia’s rich cultural offerings and institutions.”
—Scott Guzielek

“We are thrilled to welcome Scott to the Academy of Vocal Arts,” “I look forward to working with Scott in this new role at the Academy. We feel fortunate to have found Scott, who will bring an energizing combination of administrative and artistic talents to the AVA family.”
—President and Artistic Director, K. James McDowell

BRYAN HYMEL (AVA ’08) was named the Vice President of Global and Artistic Outreach. Mr. Hymel has been enjoying a successful international career as one of the world’s top tenors, and AVA is thrilled to welcome him back to 1920 Spruce as he steps into this new role, where he will serve as AVA’s global ambassador.

“I know that the AVA approach for training singers is unique in the world and the best way to show singers how to successfully navigate a career in opera. I look forward to bringing these wonderful aspects of AVA to future generations of singers and opera lovers, alike.”
—Bryan Hymel

“Bryan has always been an ardent supporter of AVA’s mission to train young singers...his understanding of the AVA legacy and his optimism about the future of opera make him the perfect addition to our team.”
—Harold F. (Rick) Pitcairn II, Chairman of the Board of Directors

“Bryan Hymel will be a valuable addition to the Academy of Vocal Arts’ administrative staff, while continuing to sing at the world’s most important opera houses.”
—K. James McDowell, President and Artistic Director
DR. DANTE CERZA was born in Philadelphia and has been practicing pediatric anesthesiology in an academic setting for eleven years. Medical education has been an important focus in his career, and he takes great interest in the process of learning. His current learning efforts include understanding cognitive science and pursuing fluency in Italian. Dante is excited for the opportunity to support and follow along with the career development of so many talented, passionate artists as they receive mentorship and direction at AVA.

MARLENE MILNER is a Philadelphia native, having attended Friends Select School and Drexel Institute of Technology-College of Business. Her professional experience includes over thirty-five years as a paralegal in the areas of litigation and estates work. She is currently the Treasurer of the Main Line Opera Association of the Academy of Vocal Arts, and she is involved with organizations including the Pocono Mountains Music Festival, Church of St. Asaph, The Cosmopolitan Club, and the Philadelphia Country Club.

NEAL KROUSE has a great passion for the arts, particularly opera, ballet, and theater. He is an active member of the arts community in Philadelphia, as he serves on the Board of Directors of both the Philadelphia Orchestra and BalletX. He worked for the United Elevator Company for many years, eventually becoming the company’s President. He also worked as a consultant for ThyssenKrupp Elevator Company. A resident of the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, Neal also enjoys traveling and boating.

Please join us in welcoming our New AVA Board Members

Please join us in remembering members of the AVA family who passed away this year. We will miss them dearly.

JOAN O. CAHAN
JOANNE T. GREENSPUN
LAREN PITCAIRN
DR. RAYMOND T. FRIDAY
MELISSA PARKS (AVA ’96)
SAUL SILVERMAN
AVA continues to thrive thanks to the valuable support of its many donors and patrons. If you love opera, a gift to the Academy is a wonderful way to invest in this vital art form. You can take pride in knowing that you are doing your part to ensure the success of the art form by supporting the Resident Artists who are the voices of opera’s future.

There are a number of ways that you can make an impact by supporting the AVA Resident Artists and the future of opera.

**ANNUAL GIVING THROUGH THE FRIENDS OF AVA**
The Friends of AVA are a dedicated group of supporters who, by investing in AVA’s mission through annual gifts, nurture and launch the world’s most promising vocal artists. Friends of AVA members have the rare opportunity of getting to know the Resident Artists and artistic team personally through intimate and exclusive parties, concerts, and opera trips.

**FELLOWSHIPS**
AVA is the only tuition-free school in the world devoted exclusively to operatic training. While the program has always been tuition-free, AVA now also offers fellowships to assist Resident Artists with the costs of living in Philadelphia during their training at AVA. Resident Artist fellowships can be endowed or funded on an annual basis. Our Comprehensive Scholarships start at $350,000. Please contact the Development department for additional information.

**THE HELEN CORNING WARDEN SOCIETY—PLANNED GIVING**
The Helen Corning Warden Society recognizes the patrons who have made a bequest or other deferred planned gift arrangement for AVA in their estate planning. Gifts can be made in a variety of ways and allow donors to make meaningful gifts that they might not otherwise be able to commit to currently. In addition to bequests, AVA accepts charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance, and retirement plan designations. The AVA Development department will work with you to identify the best Planned Giving option for your needs.

**MATCHING GIFTS**
Your employer may match your gift to AVA, either entirely or in some portion. In some instances, this may double or even triple the benefit of your gift to the Academy of Vocal Arts and its Resident Artists! Please check with your employer’s benefits office to determine their matching gift requirements.

**THE UNITED WAY**
AVA’s Opera Outreach program is eligible to receive individual contributions made through the United Way Specific Care Program. All you need to do is complete the top portion of your United Way form, and then find the line for SPECIFIC CARE and enter AVA’s code #3164, the amount of your gift, and the eligible agency name: Academy of Vocal Arts Opera Outreach.

AVA patrons with alumnus Stephen Costello in Barcelona. Photo courtesy of Robert Lyon

Joyce DiDonato with patrons from left to right: Gordon Wase, Neal Krouse, Allen Black, Randy Apgar, and Alice Chase. Photo courtesy of Robert Lyon

Resident Artists Gabriela Flores and Renée Richardson with patron George Milner. Photo credit: Don Valentino

Photo credit: Don Valentino

Photo credit: Robert Lyon
FINANCIALS

OPERATING INCOME
$4,208,653

Operating income consists of revenue from a variety of sources. Like many schools, the largest single revenue source for AVA is the investment income from its endowment. Unlike other schools or conservatories, AVA receives no income from tuition, and therefore must rely on support from our loyal patrons. Individual contributions, ticket sales, and special events, including the annual Gala, provide most of the remainder of our budget. In recent years, planned gifts and bequests are providing ever more important revenue support. Thank you to all who share our love for opera and want to help us train the voices for opera’s future!

UNRESTRICTED OPERATING EXPENSES
$4,156,629

The two largest expenditures in AVA’s budget, program payroll and benefits, along with opera theatre expenses, are directly related to the training program. Three fully-staged orchestra operas with orchestra are included in the opera theatre expenses. Other costs are associated with recitals, concerts and piano productions.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We would like to extend our thanks to all our donors and contributors. No matter the size of the donation, you are doing your part to ensure the future of opera by donating to the Academy of Vocal Arts and supporting talented Resident Artists. We would like to extend a special thank you to our generous 2018-2019 season sponsors.

2018-2019 SEASON SPONSORS:

Walter and Alice Strine, Esqs
sponsors of the Giargiari Bel Canto Competition, Rusalka and Russian Romances

Victoria Eckert Zoellner
sponsor of Suor Angelica and Le Villi

Gray Charitable Trust
sponsor of Così fan tutte

Judith Broudy
sponsor of Roméo et Juliette

Pitcairn
Season supertitles sponsor

WRTI 90.1 FM
Season sponsors

Mike Paolone and Merrill Lynch
Gala Program Sponsors

The Rose Group
Gala Concert Sponsor

OUR LEADING CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS:

Brickman Foundation
Bucks County Opera Association
CHG Charitable Trust
Edwin B. Garrigues Trust
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Gray Charitable Trust
David A. and Helen P. Horn Charitable Trust
The Jewish Community Foundation
KDI
Liberty Business Strategies
Main Line Opera Association
Merrill Lynch
Mid Penn Bank
National Philanthropic Trust
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
The Philadelphia Cultural Fund
Pitcairn
PoGo Family Foundation, Inc.
The Presser Foundation
Quaker Chemical
The Rose Group
The Walter M. Strine Foundation
WRTI 90.1 FM

OUR MAJOR INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS:

Anonymous (2)
Drs. Romeo and Emmeline Abella
Kenneth and Diane Ahl
Lynn Schuman Allen
R. Randolph Apgar and Allen D. Black
Dr. Lamberto Bentivoglio and Barbara Donnelly Bentivoglio
Kay Bosson
Dick and Sally Brickman
Judith Broudy
Walter and Marjorie Buckley
Dr. William B. Carey
Mrs. Alice Chase
Kristin Davidson
Anne D. Gardner
Peter G. Gould and Robin Potter
Carole Haas Gravagno
Dr. and Mrs. Warren J. Herbst
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony P. Jannetta
Susan E. Kane
Sheila H. Kessler
Neal W. Krouse
Mary M. Lane
Joseph W. McGuire and Wilma Rossi
Dhun Mehta
Harold F. (Rick) Pitcairn II
Suzanne Root
Phillip Schuman
Corey and Jonne Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Stephenson
Walter and Alice Strine, Esquires
Mrs. William G. Warden III
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon M. Wase, Esq.
Charlotte and Bob Watts
Victoria Eckert Zoellner

Photo credit: Don Valentino