

Four Seasons

BREEZE

Magazine



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HANDBELL CHOIR

Have you ever worked on a railroad? Have you ever had a dog named BINGO? On June 6, we will be having our Handbell concert and be playing a lot of fun songs that we grew up with. Looking forward to seeing you. Donations always accepted.

Contact Kathie Sundstrom at (303) 903-6850 or kathryn.buck@comcast.net for more information. ~ *Kathie Sundstrom*



OPERA CLUB

Our May meeting is May 11 at 10 am in the RCN. We will show a version of Antonin Dvorák *Rusalka*. The eponymous opera refers to a lake-dwelling water sprite with dreams of more. Our *Rusalka* has been inspired to “more” due to falling in love with the local prince who takes a break from his hunting to bathe in her lake. As a non-corporeal entity she comes to the conclusion that the only way to fully love the prince is to take human form. So, she pleads with Ježibaba to turn her into a human, fully acknowledging that she will lose her power of speech.

Sound familiar? Well, Jaroslav Kvapil, the librettist, was inspired by the Hans Christian Anderson story of the Little Mermaid. But the original fairy tale is darker than the Disney re-imagining, and the *Rusalka* opera is darker yet.

Despite the darker story, the opera features one of the most beautiful arias in all of opera, “The Song to the Moon.” If you search for this aria, you will find any number of exquisite performances. My position is that the high quality of the many versions is due to the fact that the difficulty of the Czech language serves as a filter to discourage



the less-than-completely serious singers. The U.S. contributor of note is Renée Fleming (inset), who sings *The Song to the Moon* just about everywhere. But please search further, there are so many great versions.

Darker than Disney and Anderson? In addition to becoming mute, *Rusalka* must also lose her beauty and her immortality. Moreover, she has to convince the prince to marry her or he will die and she will be eternally damned.

Rusalka goes through the transformation to human form, but is foiled by the fickle prince’s affections for a foreign princess who steals his heart. The foreign princess spurns the prince but the *Rusalka*’s hopes have been dashed. The prince re-visits the lake to repent to *Rusalka*, asking for a kiss knowing that his kiss of love will mean his death. The prince takes responsibility for his betrayal, kisses *Rusalka* and dies. In dying, the prince’s love saves *Rusalka* from eternal damnation.

Join us as we continue this magnificent adventure. ~ *Harvey Toyama, yukito@yukito.net, (951) 524-3765*

CLASSICAL MUSIC CLUB

We are classical music lovers with an interest in sharing our love of, knowledge about, and interest in classical music. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm in The Lodge Theater. We listen to and watch musical selections on the big screen. Each month we focus on a particular work or several selections of one composer. We also discuss current musical performances in the area. We welcome new members. Contact Steve Benoff at steve.benoff@verizon.net or (310) 413-4896. ~ *Steve Benoff*

An advertisement for Grace Lutheran Church. It features a photograph of a church building in the background. The text includes the church name, its affiliation with the Missouri Synod, its mission statement, and details about Sunday worship services.

Grace Lutheran Church
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