

Four Seasons

BREEZE

Magazine

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OPERA CLUB

The November meeting of the Four Seasons Opera Club will be in The Lodge Theater on Friday, Nov. 8 at 6 pm when we will present Beethoven's *Fidelio*.

Beethoven's sole opera is the great masterwork of the genre. Yes, I'm biased. If we try to describe operas with a single word we may say that *Madama Butterfly* is "heart-breaking" and *Carmen* is "fiery." In that thought exercise, *Fidelio* is "profound." *Fidelio* explores two topics central to our human existence. The first is marital love. Indeed, the full title is "Fidelio, or the triumph of marital love." The other topic is freedom from oppression. Beethoven wove these two themes together with his brilliant music and theatricality. Because these themes are universal and outside of time, *Fidelio* has been set in many time periods and locales.

The opera features a quartet, "Mir ist so wunderbar," early in the opera that is one of the most sublimely beautiful musical passages ever written, performed and heard. Later in the first act there is an equally beautiful and moving chorus, "O welche lust." In this, The Prisoners Chorus, the political prisoners are gifted by the warden with a few moments of sunlight after years of damp, darkness, and solitude.



Lise Davidsen as Fidelio

The greater profundity of the opera unfolds as the protagonist, *Fidelio*, achieves her goal of freeing her captive husband. And there is even more depth to explore. Please visit the Opera Club website at yukito.net to learn about the thread that starts in the Age of Enlightenment in the mid-17th century and connects from Mozart and Schikaneder (*Magic Flute*) to Beethoven and Schiller through the fall of the Berlin Wall and to Leonard Bernstein at the end of 1989.

Of all the operas presented thus far, *Fidelio* demands homework in advance. You will find the resources for that purpose on the website page for the show, yukito.net/2411-Fidelio.htm.

Finally, a reminder that in December we will present our opera offering, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* on the 13th and *The Nutcracker* on the 20th. This ballet is the first of what is intended to be an ongoing feature of the Opera Club.

Please RSVP to the email address below for the ballet so that we can manage space in the smallish theatre (only 23 seats of which nine have been reserved already). ~ *Harvey Toyama, yukito@yukito.net, (951) 524-3765*

HANDBELL CHOIR

What is a SUBSTITUTE? A person serving in place of another. We need YOU! If you can read and count music, our Handbell Choir could use you. We sometimes travel or even get sick. If you can be available on Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 3 pm, please contact me at kathryn.buck@comcast.net or call or text at (303) 903-6850. ~ *Kathie Sundstrom*



FOUR SEASONS SINGERS

Four Seasons Singers rehearse every Monday. We are getting ready for the Holiday Show, the first weekend in December. We will be singing some beloved carols and some new holiday music.

If you would like to join the Singers, would like to be included in my email list, or if you have questions about the Four Seasons Singers, call (951) 797-3466 or email me at bawasco@dc.rr.com. ~ *Barbara Wasco*

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*

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