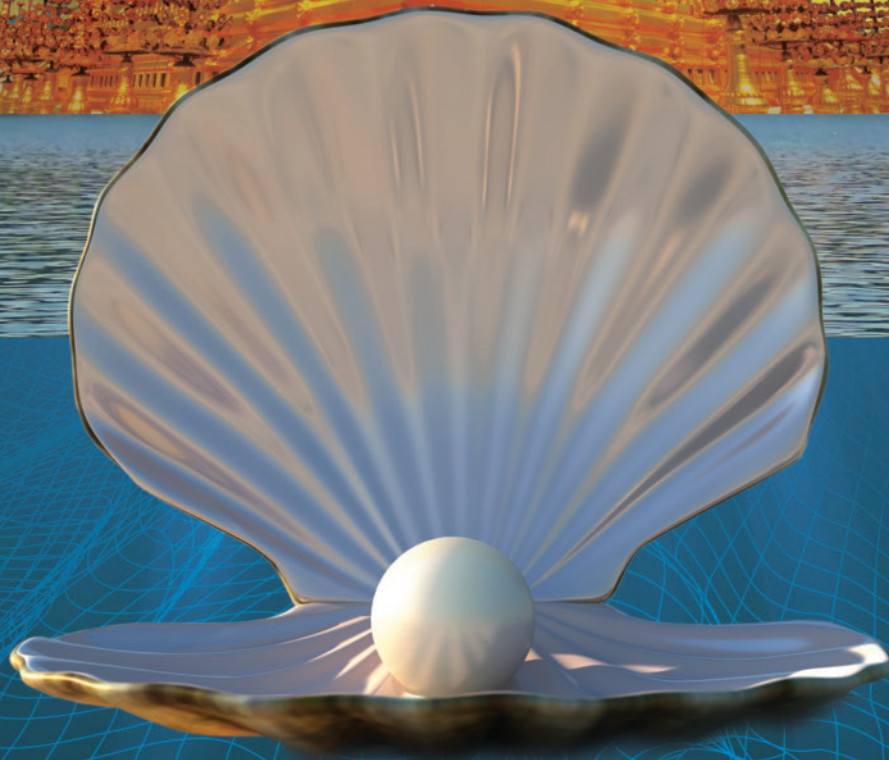


The Pearl Fishers

By Georges Bizet



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Scenic Designer
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Vale Rideout

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“Did you know that the libretto is by Colette? And set to music by Ravel...how can you go wrong?” Maya Ling said as she got up and did a twirl, David Hockney’s bat people and what appear to be giant flying polka-dotted pickles swirling behind her. “The opera is about a naughty boy who won’t do his homework, and instead ransacks his room like a rock star. Then the furniture and wallpaper and other objects in the room come to life and scold the boy. And the room fills with all kinds of animals and plants—things the kid once tortured—and attack him! I mean, look at these bats and giant slugs flying around—it’s pretty nuts if you sit here and really take it all in. I could sit here for hours.”

Ling revealed that she visited the installation *L’Enfant et les Sortilèges* (The Child and the Enchantment) at the Honolulu Museum of Art Spalding House every couple of months, especially in late summer, when it’s been a half-year since opera season and she needs a fix. It is David Hockney’s reinterpretation of sets he created for New York’s Metropolitan Opera in 1981.

Ling exited the low-lit, music-filled space into a world of green and bird chirps. “Look at this. It’s like swimming underwater and jumping out of the pool into a nightclub or something.” Walking

down the path winding through the museum’s lush garden she paused at a stainless steel George Rickey sculpture, its moving geometry a miracle of precision engineering. “There’s so much to see even if you don’t go in the galleries—a field with Deborah Butterfield’s statuesque horse, and Satoru Abe’s alien tree.

“I get a double dose of music today. Tonight I’m going down to the Honolulu Museum of Art’s Doris Duke Theatre to catch the Galliard String Quartet. I’m thrilled that the Honolulu Symphony is back on its feet, but I have to say, there is nothing like sitting in such an intimate space with the sexy sounds of violins and cellos washing over you. But first, a latte.”

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David Hockney, b. 1937, American
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

10	DIRECTOR'S NOTES
12	<i>THE PEARL FISHERS</i> SYNOPSIS
14	PRINCIPAL CAST

7	HOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS HOT STAFF
9	HOT FOUNDERS
15	ARTISTIC TEAM
18	HOT EDUCATION OUTREACH
19	CHORUS, SUPERNUMERARIES & DANCERS
20	2012 HAWAII OPERA ORCHESTRA
22	HOT OPERA BALL
24	STAFF & VOLUNTEERS
26	SPECIAL THANKS
29	PROFESSIONAL GROUP DONORS
30	OUR GENEROUS DONORS
34	BUSINESSES, TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS
34	MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

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Karen Tiller

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

At the time Bizet wrote this opera, the Far East was truly coming into the consciousness of European composers and librettists... the lands were distant, mysterious, exotic... with veiled priestesses, half-clad servants, secret rituals, and of course, raging passions that fueled the imagination - and truly allowed audiences to escape the conventions of polite society, if only for an evening.

Much like his more famous work *Carmen*, the story of *The Pearl Fishers* is about two men and their love for one woman. However, in this piece our two would-be lovers are best friends and have decided to forsake their feelings, choosing the bond of friendship over amorous desire.

The beautiful Leïla disappears from their lives, and they also go their separate ways... days passing into months... but fate brings all three back to the shores of the small fishing village as we begin our tale. Again, in Carmen-like fashion: desire and jealousy, honor and violence, love and hate - all play out on the rocky shores of Ceylon.

We soon learn that Nadir did not keep his vow to his friend, but disappeared to follow Leïla... hiding in the shadows around the temple, straining to catch glimpses of her, or to hear the sound of her song on the wind. His passion has only grown, and it is her arrival in the village that has brought him back to the shores of home.

Zurga has kept his promise to Nadir. He has worked hard to forget Leïla and her beauty, and has distracted himself with the work of the village. He is named their leader just before Nadir and Leïla appear... it is his duty to make certain the village is safe and their livelihood secure.

Leïla has taken a vow of chastity and piety. In order to insure smooth seas for the pearl harvest, she must appease the gods in prayer and forsake human love. She must never lift her veil for a man or she will be cursed for the rest of her days. Her gift for such sacrifice... the most beautiful pearl the village discovers.


All three are in some way duty bound, and, as you might guess - all are unable to live up to the expectations of their people and culture... or even the expectations they have for themselves. Leïla and Nadir are not able to resist their love. Zurga, still moved by Leïla, is consumed by jealous rage when he discovers Nadir's betrayal.

Ultimately they are faced with both possibility and tragic consequence... each discovering greater purpose and breaking free from the tide of expectation.



Director
Karen Tiller

Karen Tiller
Karen Tiller



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SYNOPSIS

ACT I A seashore on Ceylon

There is a short prelude after which the curtain rises on a group of fishermen and their families working, singing and dancing (*Sur la grève en feu*). When Zurga enters and reminds them it is time to select a leader, they choose him. They agree to give him absolute power and he accepts. Nadir, a young fisherman and former friend of Zurga's appears, and they joyfully greet each other.

Left alone, Zurga and Nadir recall their former rivalry over the beautiful priestess Leïla, and how, to save their friendship, they swore never to see her again (*Au fond du temple saint*). They are interrupted by news of the arrival of a veiled woman who, to ward off evil spirits, is to pray for the fishermen at sea. She is accompanied by the high priest Nourabad and is welcomed by the people. Zurga has her swear that she will remain veiled and chaste; if she does so, she will be rewarded with the finest pearl found, if not, she will die. The woman is Leïla, and in spite of her veil, she and Nadir recognize each other. After she reaffirms her vows and is led to the temple by Nourabad, all leave except Nadir. He tells how he has dreamt of her and followed her here (*Je crois entendre encore*). He falls asleep, and Leïla appears on a rock above the shore.

ACT II That evening in front of the temple

The fishermen have returned safely, and Leïla is released from her vigil for the evening. Nourabad reminds her of her vow, and she tells him she has always been faithful, even when faced with death. When she was a child, in spite of being threatened with knives, she helped a fugitive escape. He rewarded her with a necklace.

Alone in the temple, she senses Nadir's presence (*Comme autrefois*). When he appears, she admits her love (*Ton coeur n'a pas compris le mien*), but she pleads with him to leave; it is dangerous for him to be with her. It is too late; Nourabad has seen him, and Nadir is captured. Although Nourabad and the crowd call for the lovers' death, Zurga reminds them that he has sole power and will be merciful. When Nourabad tears the veil from Leïla, Zurga realizes that Nadir has betrayed their vow. His mercy changing to rage, he swears revenge.

ACT III

Scene 1 Zurga's tent

Zurga regrets the rage and jealousy that has made him condemn his old friend. (*O Nadir, tendre ami de mon jeune âge*). Leïla comes to beg for Nadir's life. Although he had planned to spare them, his jealousy when he realizes she loves Nadir, leads him to order their death. Before she is led off, Leïla produces her necklace, asking that it be sent to her mother. Zurga recognizes it — he is the fugitive she saved as a girl!

Scene 2 Place of execution

Anticipating the execution, the villagers perform a frenzied dance. As Leïla and Nadir are led to their execution, a red glow appears in the sky. Nourabad thinks it is the dawn, but Zurga announces that the village is on fire. As the people rush off to save their homes and children, Zurga tells the lovers that he set the fire; the necklace was his. He is repaying his debt to Leïla by setting them free.

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PRINCIPAL CAST



SARI GRUBER *Leïla*

Hometown: Melrose, MA. **Recent & Upcoming Productions:** Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music* (Tanglewood on Parade with Boston Symphony Orchestra); Susanna, *Le nozze di Figaro* (Lyric Opera of Kansas City); Musetta, *La bohème* (Opera Colorado); Mahler's *Symphony No. 4* and Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* (Oklahoma City Philharmonic); New Year's Eve *Viennese Concert* (North Carolina Symphony). **Career Highlights:** Susanna, *Le nozze di Figaro* (New York City Opera); Gretel, *Hänsel und Gretel* (New York City Opera); Alexandra, *Regina* (Lyric Opera of Chicago); First Niece, *Peter Grimes* (Saito Kinen Festival and Maggio Musicale di Firenze); Handel's *Samson* (De Nederlandse Opera). **Past HOT Productions:** HOT Debut. **Favorite Pastime:** Perennial gardening.



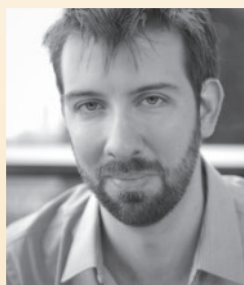
VALE RIDEOUT *Nadir*

Hometown: Lawrence, KS. **Recent & Upcoming Productions:** Peter Quint, *Turn of the Screw* (Central City Opera); Male Chorus, *The Rape of Lucrece* (Cal Performances under Lorin Maazel); Tancredi, *The Inspector* (Wolf Trap Opera, World Premiere); Don Ottavio, *Don Giovanni* (Tulsa Opera); Igneo, *Rio de sangre* (Florentine Opera). **Career Highlights:** Britten's *War Requiem* (New York Philharmonic, Lorin Maazel, conductor); Robert McNamara, *August 4, 1964* (Carnegie Hall, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Jaap van Zweden, conductor, New York premiere); Alfred, *Die Fledermaus* (San Francisco Opera); Edgardo, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Central City Opera); Atis, *The Fortunes of King Croesus* (Minnesota Opera). **Past HOT Productions:** HOT Debut. **Favorite Pastime:** Bicycling and photography.



JERETT GIESELER *Zurga*

Hometown: Hastings, MI. **Recent & Upcoming Productions:** Figaro, *Barber of Seville* (Opera Grand Rapids); Marcello, *La bohème* (Stockton Opera); Baritone Soloist, Handel's *Messiah* (Avery Fisher Hall); Macbeth, *Macbeth* (Taconic Opera); Soloist, *Weinachtskonzert Neues Sinfonieorchester Berlin*. **Career Highlights:** Winner, Irene Dalis Competition, Liederkrantz Vocal Competition, Wagner Division, and Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition, Wagner Division; Awarded three grants from the Wagner Association of Washington DC, and two grants from the Wagner Society of New York. **Past HOT Productions:** HOT Debut. **Favorite Pastime:** Friends, food and films.



MATTHEW BOEHLER *Nourabad*

Hometown: Minneapolis, MN. **Recent & Upcoming Productions:** Sarastro, *The Magic Flute* (Minnesota Orchestra); Secret Police Agent, *The Consul* (Opera New Jersey); Bass soloist, *Messiah* (Jacksonville Symphony, Portland Baroque Orchestra and Musica Sacra); Adolfo, *The Inspector* (Wolf Trap Opera, world premiere); UPCOMING: Drebednev, Shostakovic' *Moscow, Cheryonmushki*, (Chicago Opera Theater) **Career Highlights:** Businello, *Casanova's Homecoming* (Minnesota Opera); Leporello, *Don Giovanni* (Opera New Jersey, Chicago Opera Theater, Opera Lyra Ottawa); Pooh-Bah, *The Mikado* (Opera Theater of Saint Louis); Sweeney Todd, *Sweeney Todd* (Wolf Tap Opera). **Past HOT Productions:** Old Hebrew, *Samson et Dalilah* (2007)



ARTISTIC TEAM



JULIAN WACHNER *Conductor*

Hometown: Hollywood, CA. **Recent & Upcoming Productions:** Music Director, Trinity Wall Street (NYC) & The Washington Chorus (DC); Principal Conductor, Opera McGill (Montréal); New York City Opera; National Symphony Orchestra. **Career Highlights:** Glimmerglass Opera, Philadelphia Orchestra, Spoleto Festival USA, Montréal Symphony Orchestra, Handel & Haydn Society. **Past HOT Productions:** HOT Debut. **Favorite Pastime:** Gourmet cooking.



KAREN TILLER *Stage Director*

Hometown: Big Stone Gap, VA. **Recent & Upcoming Productions:** UPCOMING: *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (HOT). **Career Highlights:** *Orfeo et Euridice* (Opera Festival of New Jersey); *Turn of the Screw* (Opera Memphis); *Madama Butterfly* (Opera Memphis). **Past HOT Productions:** *Susannah* (2005); *Tosca* (2006); *Carmen* (2009); *La bohème* (2010); *Lucia di Lammermoor* (2011). **Favorite Pastime:** Cooking, running, and pet ownership.



MINOU LALLEMAND *Choreographer*

Hometown: NYC (born in Colombia). **Recent & Upcoming Productions:** Artistic Director, Onium Ballet Project, a contemporary ballet troupe that recently performed her new ballet of Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* as well as Bohuslav Martinu's *La Revue de Cuisine* (Chamber Music Hawaii); Igor Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*, Samuel Barber's *Summer Music*, Darius Milhaud's *Creation of the World*, and Paul Hindemith's *Der Dämon* (Chamber Music Hawaii). **Career Highlights:** Danced principal and soloist roles for eight seasons with Ballet Arizona; Performed with Princeton Ballet, Ballet Chicago, Ballet Hawaii and Sacramento Ballet; Toured nationally with *The Phantom of the Opera*. Teaches and choreographs for Ballet Hawaii, Queen Emma Ballet, Punahou School, and the Nix Performing Arts Center. **Past HOT Productions:** HOT Debut. **Favorite Pastime:** Travel, movies, good food and books.



NOLA A. NAHULU *Co-Chorus Director*

Hometown: Wai'anae, HI. **Recent & Upcoming Productions:** *Mozart Festival* (July, 2011); *Onipa'a* (Sept., 2011); *10th Anniversary of 9/11*, Kawaiaha'o Church (Sept., 2011); *"Long Story Short"* on PBS (March 2011). **Career Highlights:** Singing & conducting around the world with HYOC at Carnegie Hall, New York; Beijing, China; Llangollen, Wales; Sacre Coeur, Paris, France; Salzburg Cathedral, Austria; Kawaiaha'o Church, Oahu. **Past HOT Productions:** Has prepared choruses with Beebe Freitas since 1992. **Favorite Pastime:** Sewing... fabric as well as PIKAKE!



GRETCHEN MUELLER *Stage Manager*

Hometown: Newton, MA. **Recent & Upcoming Productions:** *The Experience of Flight in Dreams* (Garrett & Moulton Productions); Clark Supryniewicz's *Caliban Dreams* (world premiere); *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Berkeley West Edge Opera). **Career Highlights:** *War and Peace*; *Der Ring des Nibelungen*; *The Tale of Genji*; *Das Verrätene Meer*; Tour with Peking Opera. **Past HOT Productions:** Over 40 productions, most recently *La Traviata* (2011), *Faust* (2011); *La bohème* (2010); *Le nozze di Figaro* (2010). **Favorite Pastime:** Body surfing and photography.

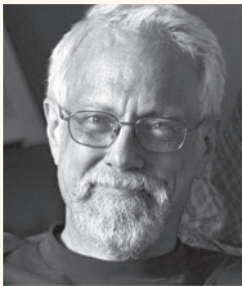


ARTISTIC TEAM



BEEBE FREITAS *Co-Chorus Director / Rehearsal Pianist*

Hometown: Youngstown, OH. *Recent & Upcoming Productions:* All past HOT productions; UPCOMING: Recital with Frederica von Stade. *Career Highlights:* Rehearsal pianist for Leonard Bernstein, Charles Munch, Gian Carlo Menotti; Recital with Yo Yo Ma; Recitals and recordings with clarinetist David Shifrin. *Past HOT Productions:* Every season since the Stone Age. *Favorite Pastime:* Reading, watching UH sports on TV.



PETER DEAN BECK *Lighting Designer*

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA. *Recent & Upcoming Productions:* *Turandot* (Florentine Opera); *Music Man* (Skylight Opera Theatre); *Marriage of Figaro* and *Susannah* (CU Boulder) UPCOMING: *Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi* (UC Boulder); *Abduction from the Seraglio* (SUNY Stony Brook); *Sound of Music* (Skylight Opera Theatre). *Past HOT Productions:* 27th season as resident designer, including *Tristan und Isolde*, *Don Carlo*, *Elektra*, *A Little Night Music*. *Favorite Pastime:* Loves cooking, jazz & NY Yankees



HELEN E. RODGERS *Costumer*

Hometown: Charlottesville, VA. *Recent & Upcoming Productions:* UPCOMING: *Don Giovanni* (Mannes Opera); *The Ghosts of Versailles* (Manhattan School of Music). *Career Highlights:* *Die Walküre* (HOT); Wild West costumes designed for San Diego Opera, performed by companies in US and Canada and remounted this season in San Diego. *Past HOT Productions:* Resident costumer since 2002. Favorites include *Die Walküre*, *La bohème*, & *Susannah*. *Favorite Pastime:* Travel, gardening and Reiki.



SUE SITTKO SCHAEFER *Wig & Make-up Designer*

Hometown: St. Paul, MN. *Recent & Upcoming Productions:* *Boris Godunov* and *Don Giovanni* (Utah Festival Opera); Musical Theatre in Logan, Utah; *Carmen* and *Marriage of Figaro* (Kentucky Opera). *Career Highlights:* Traveling and working in Poland on a production of *Marriage of Figaro*, co-produced by University of Louisville and The Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland. This production was the subject of the documentary film, "Figaro: Living in the Moment of a Character", directed and produced by Sue's husband, Dan Schaefer. *Past HOT Productions:* *Faust*, *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *La Traviata* (2011); *Manon Lescaut*, assisting former wigmaster Richard Stead (2009). *Favorite Pastime:* I LOVE to travel!



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HOT EDUCATION OUTREACH

HOT's education team shares their love of opera not only during Grand Opera Season, but year round. The world of opera is literally brought to schools and taught to children of all ages. Aspiring opera singers have the opportunity to train with professionals and better their craft.



(L to R) 1. Cast members from the Niu Valley Middle School Mikado production. 2. Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio member Cat Masuda as Amneris in the HOT Opera Express production of Aida. 3. Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio members Winnie So as Gretel and Rosanna Perch as the Witch in the HOT Opera Express production of Hansel and Gretel.

HOT OPERA EXPRESS

This is the touring group of HOT that develops operatic shows for students throughout the state. Performances are held in cafeterias, auditoriums and other various facilities on school campuses. The shows feature singers from the Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio of Hawaii Opera Theatre and include opportunities for audience participation. Annually, HOT's Opera Express gives 50 to 80 performances.

HOT RESIDENCY

This award-winning program turns a class, grade level or even a whole school into an opera production company. With assistance from the professionals at HOT, students, faculty and staff are coached on developing their own opera or producing adaptations of famous operas and operettas. In the past year students at Aina Haina Elementary, Waialeale Elementary, Niu Valley Middle School and St. Louis School have all participated in this program.

OPERA FOR EVERYONE

The final dress rehearsal of every opera is reserved for education purposes and each year educators bring thousands of students to experience live opera.

SINGER TRAINING

Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio

Each year local singers audition to become members of the Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio of Hawaii Opera Theatre. The Studio offers singers opportunities to work with the opera professionals on the HOT staff as well as singers, coaches and other industry professionals to further their development as singers.

Mahalo to the HOT Education Program Supporters!

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If you are interested in having HOT's education team come to your school or community group, contact the HOT Office at 596-7372.

HOT EDUCATION OUTREACH *-continued*

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Opera Highlights

Dr. Lynne Johnson leads this insightful class which provides two in-depth discussions on each of HOT's productions. Members of the class are also invited to a staging rehearsal of one opera. This class is offered as part of the non-credit programs through the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Outreach College.

OPERA PREVIEWS

Opera Previews at the Honolulu Museum of Art are a long-time tradition. The lectures are free for HOT and Academy members. There is a minimal fee for non-members. This year's lecturers include Dr. Lesley Wright and Judy Neale.

LANAI LECTURES

One hour prior and 30-minutes prior to each opera performance at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall a lecture is given on the Ward Avenue Lanai. The lectures are free and are a great way to get informed about the opera and have a place to relax before the performance begins.

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Claire Sakai Hazzard, *associate concertmaster*
Judy Barrett, *assistant concertmaster*
Sheryl Shohet
Emma Votapek
Maile Reeves
Kathy Hafner
Helen Liu
Rami Gepner
Nancy Shoop-Wu

Violin 2

Hung Wu, *principal*
Darel Stark, *associate principal*
Helen Higa
Elaine Lu
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Fumiko Wellington
Duane White
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Viola

Steve Flanter, *principal*
Anna Womack, *associate principal*
Jean-Michel Jacquon
Sandra Wong
Ethan Pernela
Melvin Whitney

Cello

Joanna Morrison-Pernela, *principal*
Nancy Masaki, *associate principal*
Louise Kefford Ching
Karen Fujimoto
Lifen Anthony
Pauline Bai

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Geoff Stone, *principal*
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James Goode
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Claire Butin, *principal*
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Oboe/English Horn

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Robert Hayakawa
George Warnock

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(*Don Pasquale*)

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Jason Ichiyama
(*Don Pasquale*)

2nd Assistant Stage Manager
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Scenic Designer
Peter Dean Beck
(*Aida*)
Lynn Pecktral
(*Don Pasquale*)
Robert O'Hearn
(*The Pearl Fishers*)

Sets
Aida - Constructed by the HOT Scene Shop
Don Pasquale - Originally created for Opera Cleveland
The Pearl Fishers - Originally created for New York City Opera

Costumes
Helen E. Rodgers,
Costume Design (Aida)
Helen E. Rodgers,
Costumer Costumes Supplied by Malabar Limited, Toronto
(*Don Pasquale*)
Richard St. Clair,
Costume Design The Pearl Fishers
Originally created for Opera Company of Philadelphia
Helen E. Rodgers,
Costumer (The Pearl Fishers)

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Wig and Make-up Designer
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12, 14, 16
2012

DIE
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by Johann Strauss

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15, 17, 19
2013

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OF THE
CARMELITES

by Frances Poulenc

APRIL
26, 28, 30
2013

Tosca

by Giacomo Puccini

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TOP PHOTO (L-R) Worldster Lee (Physician), Patricia Lee (Lawyer), Edmund (Lawyer) & Martha Burke, Evelyn Lance (Judge). **MIDDLE LEFT PHOTO** Robert (Physician) & Marita Bonham. **MIDDLE RIGHT PHOTO** (L-R) (front row) Judy Barrett/Judy Barrett Realtor; Frankie Anderson/Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties; Judy Sykes/Sykes and Sykes Properties; Yukiko Sato and Christine O'Brien/Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties; B-Jay Luke/Mary Worrall Associates Sotheby's International Realty; Anne Keamo/Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties; Patricia Anderson/Ernest Anderson Realtor; (back row) Terry Lovvorn and Chip Fithian/Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties; Ernest Anderson/Ernest Anderson Realtor; Jeffrey Fox/Kahala Associates; Lee Ruggles/Lee Ruggles Realtor; Maggie Walker/Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties. **BOTTOM PHOTO** (L-R) David & Jacki Reber, Richard Turbin & Rai Saint Chu.



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