

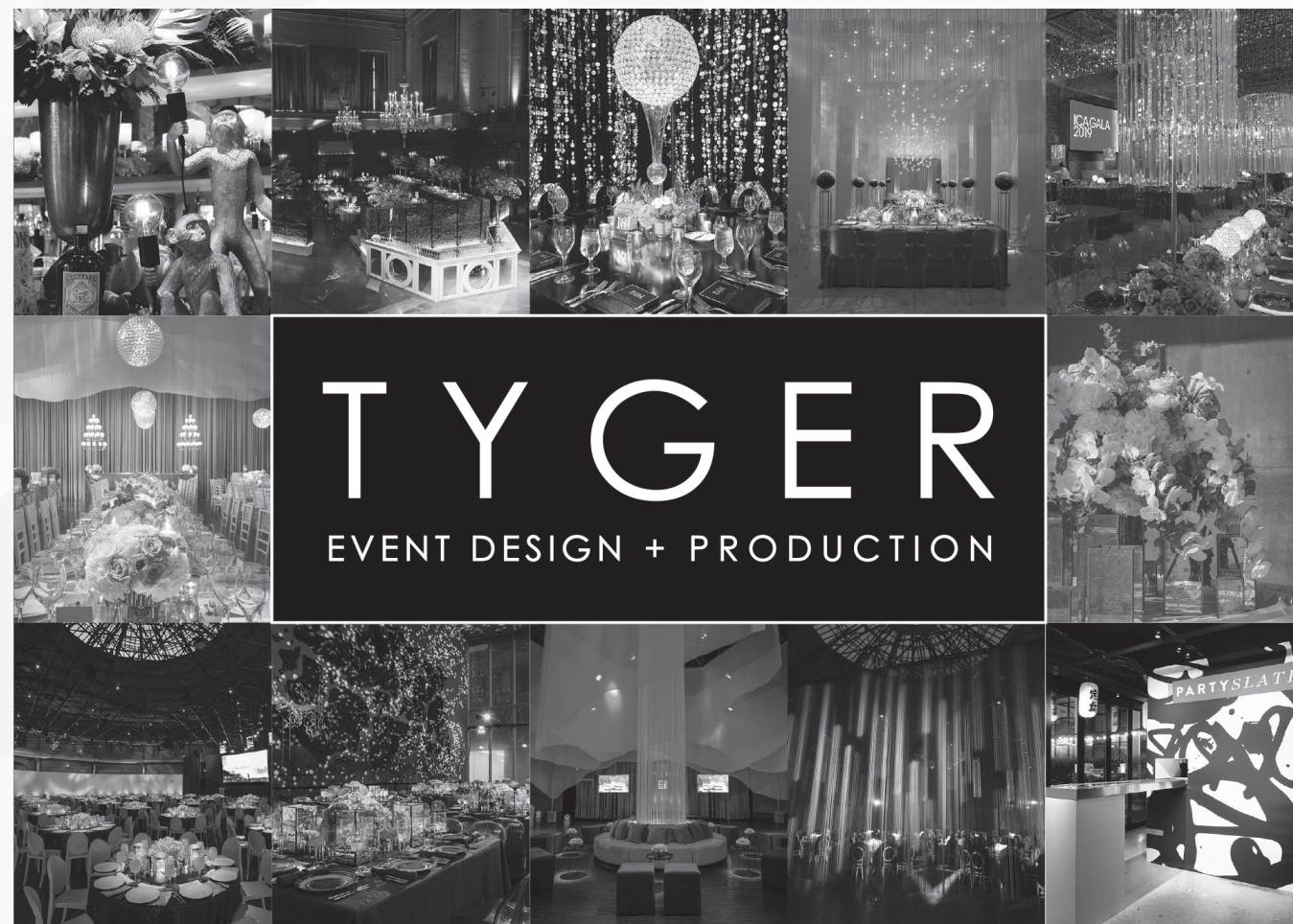
The Opera Gala

Saturday | February 22 | 2020

The State Room | Boston
A Longwood Venue

ESTHER NELSON STANFORD CALDERWOOD GENERAL & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DAVID ANGUS MUSIC DIRECTOR | **JOHN CONKLIN** ARTISTIC ADVISOR

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



It's a distinct honor to welcome you tonight to our 2020 Opera Gala as we celebrate Stanford Calderwood General & Artistic Director Esther Nelson's tenth season at the helm. With all the remarkable triumphs that Esther has brought to Boston Lyric Opera, it's hard to fathom she's been putting her stamp on the Company's programs for only a decade.

Since Esther first came to BLO, we knew that her passion for the work would bring us to exciting new levels. She is a staunch advocate for opera, for the singers – both established and rising – the musicians, and the people behind the scenes who ensure all parts of a production work smoothly, from sets and costumes, lighting design, and direction, to BLO's administration. Esther knows how an opera comes together, and she knows how to lead her team to great achievements.

Esther's ten-year impact at BLO has been seismic. It has been a privilege to have had a front row seat to watch her vision unfold. As BLO Board Chair, I get to witness the inner workings of the organization and the thinking behind the decisions that affect the Company. It has been an honor to be part of the leadership that continues to support Esther's bold vision and helps to bring it to reality.

Esther has brought BLO global recognition, led efforts to create new operas which transform the way the art form impacts its community, and continues to serve as an inspiration for future leaders. I cannot wait to see where her passion, commitment, and innovation take BLO during the next decade.

Esther, we raise our glasses to you with grateful admiration. Brava!

Michael Puzo

THE OPERA GALA: MENU & PROGRAM

WELCOME

Joyce Kulhawik & David Angus

A MUSICAL AMUSE-BOUCHE

Jane and Steven Akin Emerging
Artists & Alumni
Brett Hodgdon[†], piano

FIRST COURSE:

Oak Leaf Salad

*Ianni Orchard Farm spiced pears,
candied pecans, local goat cheese,
port wine vinaigrette (GF)*

A MUSICAL CANAPÉ

ACT I FINALE, NORMA

by Vincenzo Bellini
Elena Stikhina, soprano
Sandra Piques Eddy, mezzo-soprano
Jonathan Burton, tenor
Nathan Salazar[†], piano

A MUSICAL SOUFFLÉ

Jane and Steven Akin Emerging
Artists & Alumni
Brett Hodgdon[†], piano

ENTRÉE:

Club Cut Black Angus Sirloin & Grilled Loch Duart Salmon

*lemon-olive oil crushed yukon potatoes,
native spinach, charred tomato coulis,
balsamic reduction (GF)*

Vegetarian Alternative:

Curry Spice Roasted Whole Cauliflower

*cauliflower purée, almond, golden raisin
& cilantro salad, carrot ginger broth*

A MUSICAL PLAT DU JOUR

from *3 Hyper Dim Sums*

by Tod Machover

Winding Line

Punchy

Annie Rabbat, violin I
Heidi Braun-Hill, violin II
Kenneth Stalberg, viola
Melanie Dyball, cello

A MUSICAL PIÈCE DE RÉSISTANCE

Jane and Steven Akin Emerging
Artists & Alumni
Brett Hodgdon[†], piano
& Douglas Sumi, piano

A VIDEO TRIBUTE

A MUSICAL TRIFLE

Jane and Steven Akin Emerging
Artists & Alumni
Douglas Sumi, piano

REMARKS BY ESTHER NELSON

A MUSICAL NIGHTCAP

Jane and Steven Akin Emerging
Artists & Alumni
Featuring Members of the BLO Orchestra
and Chorus
David Angus, Conductor
Heidi Braun-Hill, Acting Concertmaster
Brett Hodgdon[†], Chorus Master

DESSERT & COFFEE

German Cookies

Lebkuchen
Almond Spritz
Pfeffernuesse

Other Sweet Treats

Almond Macaron (GF)
Cheesecake Pop (GF)

BEVERAGE SELECTIONS

Specialty Cocktails

Winter Bourbon Smash

Bourbon, Fresh mint, Lemon, Simple Syrup

Winter Bourbon Mocktail

Wine

La Crema Pinot Noir

Paso Robles, California

Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio

Alto Adige, Italy

*Assorted non-alcoholic beverages
available upon request*

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Joyce Kulhawik

Emmy™ Award-winning

Arts & Entertainment Critic

GF = Gluten Free

EN 10 LEADERSHIP & SUPPORT

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Linda Cabot Black
Christine and Michael Puzo
David and Marie Louise Scudder
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stata

We would like to acknowledge the donors who contributed in Esther Nelson's honor toward this evening's success.

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Mr. Mark Pasternack and Ms. Judy Meyers
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Sue Pate
Suzanne and Peter Read
Leonce Welt, In Honor of Amelia Welt Katzen

As of February 18, 2020

We wish to acknowledge and thank our lead patrons, not only for their sponsorship of tonight's Gala, but for gifts made directly toward crucial initiatives in support of BLO's future. Those donors who have participated in special fundraising initiatives in this 10th anniversary year of Esther Nelson's leadership are noted as Vision Fund Sponsors. Their leadership and dedication inspire our work and enable us to achieve even greater heights.

LEGACY GALA SPONSORS

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Sandra A. Urie and Frank F. Herron

PERFORMANCE

David Hoffman and Deborah Friedman
Amy Hunter and Steven Maguire
Karen E. McShane, MD
John and Susanne Potts

As of February 18, 2020

FUNDING OUR FUTURE

Esther Nelson's groundbreaking accomplishments during her first decade at BLO have left an indelible impact on our city, its performance spaces and audiences, and the art form of opera itself. While you will hear and see many laurels bestowed tonight, like Esther, BLO refuses to rest on them.

When you give to Boston Lyric Opera, you are advancing artistic heritage in Boston, strengthening the opera industry, and supporting innovative expression in our society.

Staging performances in uniquely-built spaces enables BLO to experiment with dynamic production concepts and interact with established works in novel ways. A commitment to new voices spurs BLO to commission and explore newer works that expand the operatic art form as a whole and spread the enjoyment of opera to more audiences and communities.

The future of opera rests on the shoulders of a generation of talented individuals who are just now breaking through to the major stages of the world. The Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artists are at the forefront of Esther's continued commitment to enable the best and brightest of tomorrow's opera stars to shine in Boston.

TO GIVE TONIGHT:

If you have not yet registered on our fundraising platform, Givesmart, you can text 'EN10' to 76278, or talk to a BLO staff member about making a donation.

Once you have registered, simply text 'Give 100' to give \$100, or any other amount, to make a donation.

For further questions on donating to Boston Lyric Opera, please email donorservices@blo.org.

And BLO is even more than what you see on stage. Each young set of eyes and ears that marvels at the voice of a singer in their school, feels exhilarated standing in front of their peers in costume, or is transfixed by a performance is seeing the possibilities of the world. When students create original operas, they tell their own stories using their own voices and take chances that make them more confident.

Thank you for helping BLO build the future of opera - one song, one student, one artist, one story at a time.

WHO'S WHO GALA ENSEMBLE

NORMA ARTISTS



ELENA STIKHINA

Elena Stikhina will sing the title role in BLO's upcoming new production of *Norma*.



SANDRA PIQUES EDDY

Sandra Piques Eddy will sing Adalgisa in BLO's upcoming new production of *Norma*.



JONATHAN BURTON

Jonathan Burton will sing Pollione in BLO's upcoming new production of *Norma*.

SOPRANO



ROBYN MARIE LAMP[†]

Robyn Marie Lamp will sing Clotilde in the upcoming new production of *Norma*.



MICHELLE TRAINOR[†]

Michelle Trainor last sang as Miss Lightfoot in *Fellow Travelers*.



BRIANNA J. ROBINSON[†]

Brianna J. Robinson last sang as Lucy in *Fellow Travelers*.



SARA WOMBLE[†]

Sara Womble last sang as Lucia in *The Rape of Lucretia*.



ANTONIA TAMER[†]

Antonia Tamer last sang as the Female Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia*.

WHO'S WHO GALA ENSEMBLE

ALTO



HEATHER GALLAGHER[†]

Heather Gallagher last sang as Ofwarren in *The Handmaid's Tale*.



JESSICA JOHNSON BROCK[†]

Jessica Johnson Brock last sang as A Martha in *The Handmaid's Tale*.



DAVID TINERVIA

David Tinervia last sang as Tarquinius in BLO's event "Reclaiming Lucretia" at District Hall.



FELICIA GAVILANES[†]

Felicia Gavilanes last sang as The Double in *The Handmaid's Tale*.



EMMA SORENSON[†]

Emma Sorenson last sang as Girl in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

TENOR



JESSE DARDEN[†]

Jesse Darden last sang as Timothy Laughlin in *Fellow Travelers*.



OMAR NAJMI[†]

Omar Najmi will sing Flavio in the upcoming new production of *Norma*.



NEAL FERREIRA[†]

Neal Ferreira last sang as a member of the Trio in *Trouble in Tahiti*.



ALAN SCHNEIDER[†]

Alan Schneider last sang as the Steersman in *The Flying Dutchman*.

BASS



DAVID CUSHING[†]

David Cushing last sang as The Commander in *The Handmaid's Tale*.



DAVID MCFERRIN[†]

David McFerrin will sing Achilla in the upcoming new production of *Giulio Cesare*.

MUSIC STAFF



BRETT HODGDON[†]

Brett Hodgdon is the BLO Chorus Master and Principal Coach/Accompanist.



NATHAN SALAZAR[†]

Nathan Salazar is the Rehearsal Coach/Accompanist for the upcoming new production of *Norma*.



DOUGLAS SUMI

Douglas Sumi joins BLO as Rehearsal Coach/Accompanist for an upcoming new production next season.

QUARTET



ANNIE RABBAT

Annie Rabbat is the BLO Concertmaster.



HEIDI BRAUN-HILL

Heidi Braun-Hill served as Acting Concertmaster for *Pagliacci*.



KENNETH STALBERG

Kenneth Stalberg is BLO's Principal Violist.



MELANIE DYBALL

Melanie Dyball is BLO's Acting Principal Cello for the BLO Gala 2020.

[†] Boston Lyric Opera Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artist
[‡] Boston Lyric Opera Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artist Alumnus

members of the
BOSTON LYRIC OPERA ORCHESTRA

Annie Rabbat, Concertmaster

Violin I
Heidi Braun-Hill, *Acting Concertmaster*

Violin II
Colin Davis, *Acting Principal*

Viola
Kenneth Stalberg, *Principal*

Cello
Melanie Dyball, *Acting Principal*

Bass
Barry Boettger, *Acting Principal*

Flute
Linda Toote, *Principal*

Oboe
Nancy Dimock, *Principal*

Clarinet
Jan Halloran, *Principal*

Bassoon
Margaret Phillips, *Acting Principal*

French Horn
Sarah Sutherland, *Acting Principal*

Trumpet
Bruce Hall, *Principal*

Greg Whitaker

Trombone
Hans Bohn, *Acting Principal*

Bass Trombone
Donald Robinson

Percussion
Richard Flanagan, *Principal*

members of the
BOSTON LYRIC OPERA CHORUS

Brett Hodgdon, Chorus Master

SOPRANO
Alisa Cassola
Molly Crookedacre
Marie McCarville
Abigail Whitney Smith

ALTO
Elizabeth Kinder
Sophie Michaux
Arielle Rogers
Vanessa Schukis

TENOR
David Rivera Bozón
Ethan Bremner
Christon Carney
Frank Levar

BASS
Junhan Choi
Fred Furnari
Todd McNeel
Ron Williams

MEET JOYCE KULHAWIK

EMMY AWARD WINNING
A&E CRITIC

Kulhawik, best known as the Emmy Award-winning Arts & Entertainment Critic for CBS-Boston (WBZ-TV1981-2008) has covered local and national events from Boston and Broadway to Hollywood. As the first arts reporter/critic in the U.S. to appear every weeknight as part of a local TV news team, Kulhawik gave journalistic stature to arts reporting and greatly enhanced her station's commitment to community service. She is currently President of The Boston Theater Critics Association and a member of the Boston Society of Film Critics. Joyce has performed as a narrator with many orchestras over the years including the Boston Pops, Boston Musica Viva, The New England Philharmonic, and The Concord Orchestra. She has co-hosted nationally-syndicated movie-review programs with Roger Ebert and Leonard Maltin. Find her reviews online at JoycesChoices.com

A 3x cancer survivor, Kulhawik testified before Congress on the 20th anniversary of The National Cancer Act, and helped launch the American Cancer Society's first HOPE LODGE in Boston which provides free lodging for cancer patients. The ACS honored Kulhawik with its National Bronze Medal for her work.



In 2010 Kulhawik received the New England Emmys Governor's Award for her distinguished career, which includes Emmys for the WBZ series/campaign "You Gotta Have Arts!" and team coverage of the World Trade Center attacks, being among the first on the scene. In 2007 she was among the inaugural inductees into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame. The recipient of countless awards for her career and advocacy, Kulhawik also holds an Honorary Doctorate in Communications from her alma mater Simmons College, and has an endowed scholarship in her name at the Berklee College of Music.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
JOYCE KULHAWIK
AT WWW.JOYCESCHOICES.COM**



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