



La Camerata Newsletter

Summer Edition

2011

The big finish...

The annual, elegant [Italian Garden Party](#) on June 22nd marked the end of the company's successful 26th season. Despite the wet weather, enthusiastic opera-loving guests enjoyed pre-show cocktails and a sumptuous fashion show presented by *Earlene's House of Fashion* in the comfort of the Italian Ambassador's residence. The Ambassador of Italy Mrs. Andrea Meloni graciously invited everyone into their home until the rain subsided. Then it was out to the garden for the concert! Half way through the performance, when it started to drizzle, Master of Ceremonies, Rob Clipperton, offered to cut the concert short. The crowd loudly insisted on enjoying every one of the popular arias listed in the program. Umbrellas popped open, ponchos were popped on and many gathered under the portico because - as everyone knows - the show must go on!

For more reports on the Italian Garden Party, visit [This Just In](#) on the Opera Lyra Ottawa website.



Above - Italian Ambassador Andrea Meloni with models; weatherproof opera fans; Soprano Inga Williams singing in the rain with a little help from Master of Ceremonies Rob Clipperton. Photos: Sam Garcia

Opera does not live by ticket sales alone. It is the collective support of this community that keeps Opera Lyra Ottawa alive and flourishing in our great city. Many thanks to the Italian Ambassador & Mrs. Andrea Meloni for hosting this vibrant annual fundraiser. And, to Earlene Hobin for making it such a fashionable affair.

27th season and counting...

The excitement is building at Opera Lyra Ottawa as it is the first time the company has presented [Cavalleria Rusticana & Pagliacci](#). These two Italian works changed

opera forever as they became famous for their stories about the passions and betrayals of common people - peasants and actors in this case, rather than stories about romanticism and royals. It is referred to as *verismo* which means 'true to life'. One might conclude these operas were the reality TV of their day!



September 10, 12, 14, 17 - [Tickets](#) on sale now!

And speaking of reality programming today, Opera Lyra Ottawa will be linking to a live video blog throughout the run of *Cavalleria rusticana*. **A Singer's Life** is produced and posted by **Jonathan Estabrooks**, an accomplished baritone.



He has since graduated from The Juilliard School and performed internationally and at such venues as Carnegie Hall and the Tel Aviv Opera House. He returns to sing the role of Silvio in *Pagliacci* and will be taking us all behind-the-scenes with his video blog during the run.

Here's the episode of [A Singer's Life](#) Jonathan posted when he returned to perform at the *Italian Garden Party*. He's pictured here with mezzo soprano, Armine Kassabian. Enjoy!

This summer, visitors to Ottawa's Little Italy during Italian Week were surprised by a "[random act of opera](#)" presented by *Opera Lyra Ottawa Chorus* members. One chorister captured the event with her video camera and posted it on YouTube.

Special Offer for Opera Lyra Ottawa Subscribers!
20% OFF *Iphigenia* in Toronto!

American mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham** leads a dream cast with **Russell Braun** and **Joseph Kaiser**, directed by **Robert Carsen**.

The Canadian Opera Company premiere of Gluck's *Iphigenia in Tauris* runs for eight performances only at Toronto's Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts starting September 22, 2011.

Opera Lyra Ottawa subscribers [click here](#) & use promo code **OPERAL** for 20% OFF (restrictions apply). On sale: August 15.



Susan Graham, Lyric Opera of Chicago. Photo: Dan Rest



Did you know...?

...that the iconic sad clown from **Pagliacci** and the iconic soft drink in the red can made beautiful music together? [Coca-Cola goes to the opera!](#)

Opera is everywhere!

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