

IN THE *wings*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BARDAVON



It was 1931 and “modern” appliances for the kitchen were just becoming widely available. For four days that spring at the Bardavon, the *Evening Star* and *Enterprise* sponsored a free cooking school to showcase and demonstrate the devices to eager



homemakers. The magnetic and expert Mrs. Edna Riggs Crabtree taught the two hour classes to enthusiastic women from Dutchess and Ulster counties. The stage became the beyond-contemporary kitchen and Mrs. Crabtree enlightened attendees on everything thing from scientific food buying to the preparation of banana boat salad. Participants agreed that they had taken home many ideas for lightening irksome kitchen tasks and household duties.

An Organically Homegrown Don G.

It’s happened every spring since 1997. And this year will definitely not be an exception. Sold out crowds thunderously applauding the culmination of three months intensive organization, construction and production efforts by our own crack design and creative team.

It must be opera time at the Bardavon.

Our fifth annual offering is **Don Giovanni**, Mozart’s tragi-comedy of the charming, slippery and evil title character and those who seek revenge against him. It’s a compelling tale told through lushly harmonic melodies and complete with elaborate sets, splendid costumes and the essential English supertitles.

There’s much work to be done before the curtain rises with directorial, design and technical responsibilities managed by a core company of local heroes. Local talent is tapped for the chorus and supers while principals come to us from the prestigious Metropolitan and New York City operas. Casting duties are shared by Vernon Hartman (the director and sixteen year veteran of the Met) and Lee Pritchard (the choral director and director of Camerata Chorale, Ulster Choral Society plus the head of the SUNY New Paltz’s music program), each back for their fourth season.

Tad Gesek, a longtime Bardavon supporter, advisory committee member and retired Vassar

College theater design department chair, brings his own unique style to the stage set. The extremely resourceful costume designer Lisa Kirby returns for her fifth turn at outfitting the cast. And, of course, our own Randall Craig Fleischer will direct the music and conduct the Hudson Valley Philharmonic.

The opera’s technical side is manned by key production folks from the Bardavon. Stephen LaMarca (Managing Director of Production) is production manager; Jason Adams (Technical and Lighting Director) is lighting designer; Zack Jacobs (Stage Manager/Assistant Technical Director) will stage manage the performances. Herb Redl, a Bardavon member, has donated the use of a warehouse for set construction. Kaatsbaan International Dance Center has donated stage platforms.

All in all, a true community effort on a grand opera scale.

Don Giovanni will be staged at the Bardavon for two performances only on Saturday, June 2 at 8 pm and Sunday June 3 at 3 pm. Tickets are \$37.50 for adults, \$34.50 for students/seniors, \$32.50 for Bardavon members and are available at the theater box office. Tickets are also available through TicketMaster.

Generously sponsored by Redwing Properties, Inc.; Package Pavement Co., Inc.; Prudential Securities and the Benjamin R. Strong Opera Fund.

SILVER & BLACK ... AND GREY!

What do Joel Grey, the Bardavon and 40,000 area school children have in common? Why our annual black tie gala, of course!

This year’s **Silver & Black Gala** stars the inimitable Joel Grey. This charismatic Tony and Academy award winner (“Master of Ceremonies” in the acclaimed stage and screen versions of the landmark *Cabaret*) takes the Bardavon stage with members of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic on Saturday, May 5 at 8 pm for a tuneful tour de force.



The festive evening begins with an elegant four course sit-down dinner followed by the performance. After the show, join a glittery silver and black dessert reception with dancing to the swinging sounds of The Tony Corbiscello Big Band with members of HVP.

Where do the 40,000 kids come in? In addition to supporting our programming, proceeds will help fund the Bardavon’s school outreach programs, exposing local children to a variety of artistic and educational experiences. Nice hook, eh? To purchase tickets, call the Bardavon box office at 845.473.2072. *Generously supported by HSBC Bank U.S.A.*



Bardavon Announces HVP 2001-02 Season

The altruistic satisfaction of generously supporting a worthy nonprofit.

Blah, blah, blah. Let's talk a 20% discount on an unlimited supply of tickets. That's a perk you can *really* appreciate!

But if you need that warm fuzzy, consider this: Bardavon memberships underwrite the inspiring music, breath-taking dance and world-class attractions that we present each season and help anchor our reputation as the region's live performing arts destination.

Annual family memberships start at just \$35. To become a Bardavon member or for information on other giving opportunities call Barbara Fehrbach, Membership Director at 845.473.5288.

Wait a minute ... *call who?!* Let us introduce Barbara who has recently joined our team. She comes to us by way of Chicago, Toronto and Manhattan with over twenty-one years of arts administration experience in the nonprofit and commercial sectors. Besides marketing Broadway blockbusters and cause-related interests, Barbara has extensive experience in historic theater preservation. She and her husband, (a Broadway technical lighting ace), live in Orange County.

The Hudson Valley Philharmonic's distinctive upcoming season features four of the greatest classical and romantic composers of all time — Mozart, Beethoven, Verdi and Wagner — along with five of the greatest 19th and 20th century composers — Bernstein, Prokofiev, Elgar, Saint-Saens and Ravel. The diversity creates a stirring mix of powerful concerts that take advantage of the orchestra's fine musicianship. The contrasting programs focus on the virtuosity of several superb string players, scores of soaring vocalists and two extraordinary keyboardists.

The six program season debuts on Saturday, October 20 and Sunday, October 21 with an obsequy to the organ. The orchestra will present **Pipe Dreams** with Ravel's *La Valse*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* for Chorus and Orchestra plus *Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Op.78* by Saint-Saens.

Mid-November takes the symphony to New Paltz, Newburgh and back home to the Bardavon for **From Mozart to Modern**. This program showcases the Mozart *Concerto for Piano No. 21, K. 467* in C major with soloist Enrique Graf; Beethoven's *Symphony No. 4 in B flat, Op. 60*; *La Scala di Seta (The Silken Staircase)* Overture by Rossini and a never-before-published piece by the winner of the Davenport Composer Competition.

In February we present **Pure Dvorak** featuring the great Czech composer's Cello Concerto



CELLIST
NA-YOUNG BAEK,
HVP STRING
COMPETITION
WINNER.

(bowed by the 2001 HVP String Competition winner, Na-Young Baek) and *Symphony No. 7. March* brings Verdi's haunting *Messa da Requiem*. **Epic Romance** is the theme of our April offering with Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro, Op. 47* starring the HVP String Quartet; *Suite No. 2 from Romeo and Juliet* by Prokofiev. Also slated is Wagner's *Prelude and Lieberstod* from *Tristan and Isolde*, Verdi's *Aida* *Prelude* followed by his *Triumphal March and Ballet*.

Next year's opera is sure to be another sell out with the popular one-act duo of Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*.

Current subscribers should expect their subscription renewal packets in mid-May. For those who are not yet subscribers, your seating requests will be taken in June, pending ticket availability. Single tickets go on sale September 4. Call the Bardavon box office at 845.473.2072 for further information.

AND DON'T FORGET ...

Screen Gems on Saturday, May 12, 8 pm at the Bardavon Maestro Randall Craig Fleischer is poised for this season's fifth HVP concert — **Screen Gems** with violinist Rachel Barton performing Korngold's *Violin Concerto*. Also featured is Camerata Chorale and Ulster Choral Society directed by Lee Pritchard performing Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*. Join us for a 7 pm pre-show talk with the conductor. For tickets call 845.473.2072. *Generously sponsored by M&T Bank*

Fireworks in Millbrook on Saturday, July 7 at *The Fountains at Millbrook* A national independence romp headlined by an HVP pops concert and presented by the Millbrook Friends. (Wacky Bonus: Paul Devin conducts Sousa as high bid-

der at our Gold Rush Auction). This outdoor event raises money so that thousands of Millbrook area kids can experience our Young People's Concerts and workshops.

PianoSummer on Friday, August 3, 8 pm at McKenna Theater at SUNY New Paltz The orchestra returns to Ulster County through our Bardavon on Tour program. Forty-four members of HVP, under the baton of Vladimir Feltsman, will perform Mahler's *Adagietto* from *Symphony No. 5*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* and a work spotlighting the winner of the Jacob Flier International Piano Competition. Tickets go on sale June 7 at the McKenna Theater box office. For information call 845.257.3904.

THE 1930'S MARQUEE



Courtesy of Dutchess County Historical Society

Listed on National Register of Historic Places as much for its longstanding tradition of artists and audiences as for its vintage architecture and interior design, today's Bardavon has grown to become a leading performance venue, cultural center and place of entertainment in the Hudson Valley region. As any steward of any historic structure will tell you, the renovation and restoration is never done.

This summer the Bardavon will undergo major work that will effectively reverse a portion of the tremendous toll of 132 years of hard use. Throughout its long existence, the theater has endured numerous changes, many of which reflect the lifestyles and design of the various periods of history. Some past restylings have contributed to the theater's greatness while others have come back to haunt us. Case in point: The marquee, facade and entryway which have been abased with 1960's and 1970's additions, causing a patchwork of alterations. This summer that's going to change.

THE MARQUEE Since the turn of the last century, the Bardavon marquee has invited people of all cultures and ages to enter a world of imagination, inspiration and enjoyment. Today, it is also a vibrant symbol

BARDAVON GETS A FACELIFT

This grand lady of a certain age is getting a pretty extensive nip and tuck this summer to the tune of over \$1 million.

of revitalization as a beacon of downtown pride that has held fast through changing times.

However, the current 1947-vintage marquee has sustained a half century of moisture deterioration and considerable degradation through inappropriate additions. This summer, the existing marquee will be removed and a replication of the glamorous 1930's marquee will be installed in its place — complete with the dazzling vertical BARDAVON sign.

THE FACADE AND MAIN ENTRANCEWAY

The Bardavon facade has occupied a special position on Poughkeepsie's Market Street, a downtown thoroughfare rich with regional history. In 1936, Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered a campaign speech to a crowd of 12,000 from the balcony across from the theater. While photographers perched on the Bardavon's marquee snapped pictures, FDR pointed out that just up the block was the courthouse where the U.S.

Constitution was ratified in 1788.

Today, layers of lost design can be found under the debased facades of many buildings along Market and adjacent Main. If peeled back, those layers would reveal much of the city's history and beauty. It is our hope that the Bardavon facade renovation will have a domino effect, inspiring restoration in the neighborhood.

This project will strip away the 1960's applications and the 1947 facade, front door system and related amenities. Following the demolition, the facade will be restored to the more gracious period of the 1920's. Elements include a floor of mosaic tile with an ornamental border; original decorative plaster with beveled glass mirrors, molded panels and gilded wood display cases; natural finish wood entry doors with glass panels and brass kickplates.

Other projects to be completed are the replacement of existing fire doors, box office renovation, installation of new seat lights and roof repair. These projects present a valuable chance to enhance some of the good and banish some of the bad.

Major funding for this work has been provided by New York State Environmental Protection Fund, New York State Council on the Arts, Dutchess County, The City of Poughkeepsie, Jane W. Nuhn Trust, Dyson Foundation, Millbrook Tribute Gardens Trust, Central Hudson, M&T Bank and many, many individual donors.

1 APB FOR MEMORABILIA

This is an all points bulletin for memorabilia (photos, articles, firsthand recollections) of the 1930's Bardavon marquee, building facade, box office, display cases and Market Street scenes. These bits will aid our research, planning and design as we finalize the summer renovation plans. If you've anything to contribute, call Lucy Edgcomb, Managing Director of Theater Operations at 845.473.5288.

1 COMING TO THE BARDAVON: Ballet Arts Studio presents *Baroque & Hearts* with Dutchess Ballet Company, Saturday, June 9 at 2 and 6:30 pm. For tickets call the Bardavon box office at 845.473.2072.

1 ANNOUNCING SOON: Bardavon 2001-02 Season promises cool music, international dance and great theater.



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In The Wings

Editor: Barbara Fehribach
 Designer: Amy Manso



Love and youth are eternal and New York's a wonderful town. The post-WWII optimism of 1949 is palpable in this classic movie musical from Comden, Green and Bernstein. Gene Kelly choreographs and co-directs himself and chums Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin. They're sailors with just 24 hours to find a gal and explore New York City. Katie bar the door.

It screens Friday, June 15 at 7:30 pm. Join us for the Wurlitzer Organ pre-show concert provided by the New York Theatre Organ Society. Tickets are available at the door or by calling the Bardavon box office at 845.473.2072.

Generously sponsored by Marshall & Sterling.

SPEAKING OF THE MIGHTY WURLITZER ... HELP!

After generously providing thirteen years of free shop space for the New York Theatre Organ Society, the volunteer caretakers of the Bardavon organ, H.G. Page is no longer able to provide this service. NYTOS is in desperate need of 1,000 square feet to be used for maintenance and storage. If you can donate shop space please call John Vanderlee at 845.266.3858.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The 2001 Bardavon Annual Meeting of its membership will be held at the theater on Tuesday, June 12 at 9:15 am. We've planned a box breakfast conclave, so bring your appetite and attention. The mighty Wurlitzer will accompany the chewing portion of the meeting. In addition to the business agenda which includes board elections, executive director Chris Silva will report on our successful past season and provide a glimpse of the excitingly diverse season to come. Current members will receive a formal meeting notice in May. For more information call 845.473.5288.



STRING OF PEARLS

SHOO SHOO, SHOO SHOO SHA BOOGIE

Don't miss The Tony Corbiscello Big Band and the swingin' girl singer

trio, String of Pearls, in a big band tribute to the Andrew Sisters. One performance only at the Bardavon on Thursday, June 14 at 2 pm. Tickets are available for a \$5 donation at the door. Free bus transportation with advance notice is possible for seniors. For reservations call Vince Jaehnert at 845.473.5288.

Generously sponsored by CH Energy Group, Inc. and Woodstock Chimes Fund with added support from Assemblyman Patrick Manning, Joel Miller and Tom Kirnan.

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