

## Met Opera 2008/2009

### SPEAKERS

**SUSAN BOARDMAN** is Associate Professor Emerita of Music at the Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania, where she taught voice and directed the Penn State Opera Theatre for the past fifteen years. Previous to joining the Penn State music faculty in 1993, she spent 17 years teaching voice, vocal pedagogy, and opera at the University of Miami in Florida. Dr. Boardman, a lyric soprano, has appeared with the Florida Family Opera of the Greater Miami Opera Association, the Gold Coast Opera Theater, the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, Gusman Hall Chamber Players, Festival Miami, the Dranoff Double Piano Symposium, the Miami Bach Society, the Nittany Valley Symphony Orchestra, the Pennsylvania Centre Chamber Orchestra, the State College Choral Society, and Penn State's Centre Stage, among other musical organizations. She has had leading roles in theatrical productions with the Boal Barn Theater, Shakespeare at the Palmer, and The Next Stage, all of State College. She has presented solo recitals in Europe and Australia, as well as the United States, and as a singer of new music, premiered a number of vocal works. Her research on art song settings of folksongs and vocal training for a career in musical theater has been published in the Music Educators Journal and the Journal of Singing.

**GUY PILATO** is a retired psychologist. He earned his doctorate in 1968 from Columbia University, after which he was employed at The Mental Health Center at Penn State for 11 years, where he acted as a psychotherapist, and as director of staff and graduate assistant in-service training. He left the University to join the private practice group of Psychological Associates of Central Pa. as a psychotherapist until his retirement eight years ago. For a period of five Springs and Autumns afterwards, his wife, Grace, and he took small groups to Tuscany and Sicily for Cooking and Art tours.

His love of opera dates back to the early 1960's when he served as a naval officer on a ship home ported in Naples, Italy. Frequently attending opera performances at the San Carlo Opera House in Naples, as well as in other houses around the Mediterranean, Guy heard some of the most glorious voices in a golden age of opera – Mario del Monaco, Tito Gobbi, Giuseppe di Stefano, Franco Corelli, Victoria de Los Angeles, Zinka Milanov, Corneal MacNeil, Mirella Freni and Leontyne Price. His love of Puccini was cemented when he was present at a performance in Naples of La Boheme, which featured the great soprano, Renata Tebaldi. Since leaving the Navy, Guy (who makes no claim to formal musical training) has continued to attend opera performances, while collecting recordings and reading extensively about this, his favorite form of theater. Guy is an enthusiastic supporter of the Opera Buffs, and thinks that the State Theater's Met telecasts are one of the best things to hit our town in ages.

## TED CHRISTOPHER

**BRUCE TRINKLEY** is Professor Emeritus of Music at Penn State University where he taught composition, orchestration and opera literature, directed the opera workshop, and conducted the Penn State Glee Club for thirty-five years. He led the Glee Club on concert tours throughout the United States and to England, Wales, Trinidad and Tobago and France. He received degrees in composition from Columbia University where he studied with Otto Luening, Jack Beeson and Charles Wuorinen. He has composed incidental music, songs and choruses for theatre and dance productions at Penn State and has written extensively for choral ensembles. He was also music director of Centre Stage for twenty-five years.

Professor Trinkley's music has been performed in the United States, Europe, Australia and China. His concert works include *Santa Rosalia*, a cantata inspired by paintings of the Colombian artist Fernando Botero and filmed for PBS; *Mountain Laurels*, a choral symphony written for the centenary of State College, Pennsylvania with texts by central Pennsylvania poets; and *Cold Mountain*, a piano trio commissioned by the Castalia Trio for their concert tour of China. *Eve's Odds*, a comic chamber opera based on Genesis, won the National Opera Association's 1999 Chamber Opera Competition. *Cleo*, a chamber opera about making of the epic film *Cleopatra*, won the Competition in 2001. Recent works include *The Last Voyage of Captain Meriwether Lewis*, a cantata for men's voices; and *One Life: The Rachel Carson Project*, a multi-media work for women's chorus, soloists and instrumental ensemble. *York: the Voice of Freedom*, a full-length opera about the life of the only African American on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was premiered by the Penn State Opera Theatre in 2002 and was filmed by WPSX for broadcast on PBS stations. He and his writing collaborator, Jason Charnesky, have also written two operas for young people, *The Prairie Dog That Met the President* and *Chicken Little*. Their most recent operas are *Baby Shower* and *Buzz and Bud*.

**JENNIFER TROST** joined the Pennsylvania State University School of Music faculty in 2005 to teach studio voice and courses in vocal literature at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Prior to her work at Penn State, Professor Trost taught studio voice for three years at the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich, Germany followed by a year as a visiting associate professor of voice and acting head of the voice area at the University of California in Santa Barbara. Jennifer is a young-dramatic soprano and is still active as a singer. Her first professional engagement was as a resident artist at the Los Angeles Opera during the 1989-1991 seasons. From 1991-1995, she was a leading soprano with the Wuppertal Opera Company in Wuppertal, Germany; and from 1995-2004 she was engaged as a resident soloist at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, Germany. During that time, she worked regularly with well-known conductors such as Lorin Maazel, Wolfgang Sawallisch, James Levine, and especially Zubin Mehta, the General Music Director of the Bavarian State Opera. In addition to these long-term engagements, she also sang as a guest artist at the Komische Opera in Berlin, the National Theater in Mannheim, the Salzburg Music Festival, the Opera de Paris Garnier, the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, Italy, the British Broadcasting Corporation (Proms) in London, the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Munich Radio Orchestra, and the Munich Philharmonic.

**TODD KING** is a faculty member and graduate student in Penn State's School of Theatre, focusing on theater technology. He comes to Penn State with nearly 16 years of professional technical theater experience having worked on over 90 productions at a number of different North American opera companies. While working on his undergraduate degree in Theater Technology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Todd participated in Santa Fe Opera's technical apprentice program for two seasons. Following graduation, he was an assistant rigger at Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, New York, which led to a position as Assistant Technical Director at New York City Opera. In 2001, Todd and his wife, Liz, moved to Miami to work for Florida Grand Opera. After a brief stint in Miami, they moved to Sarasota, Florida, where Todd was both the Production Manager and Technical Director for The Sarasota Opera. He has always had a great interest in teaching others about technical theater and what happens behind the scenes and is thrilled to be at Penn State teaching students and working on his master's degree.