



STEPHAN BONFIELD

Stephan hails from the West and is a Calgary native, where he is a music, ballet and visual arts critic, working in the city and also covering all events at the Banff Centre. He lectures on music at Ambrose University College and is a Research Associate in Neurophysiology at the University of Calgary. He runs a full time music studio, is senior Examiner for the Royal Conservatory in both Theory and History, and lectures for Edmonton Opera and Calgary Opera.

DEANNA GONTARD

Deanna is an educator who has served as a high school teacher and principal. She has also taught additional qualification courses for teachers at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in Toronto.

Deanna holds a bachelor and master's degree in education from the University of Toronto and completed her doctoral work in French Linguistics at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany.

Deanna's interests encompass a wide variety of art forms – she is presently a docent at the Royal Ontario Museum and a valued member of the COC President's Council.

WAYNE GOODING

Wayne Gooding is a Toronto-based journalist and editor of the quarterly magazine, *Opera Canada*. As writer, lecturer and presenter he has explored opera and music theatre for a variety of publications and organizations in Canada and abroad. For the COC, Wayne also gives our series of **Opera Talks** at the North York Central Library and is a regular guest on the **Big COC Podcast**.

LYDIA GUO

This is Lydia Guo's fourth year with the COC Speaker's Bureau. She comes to opera much like the rest of you -- from different backgrounds and different perspectives. Her graduate studies in literature drew her attention to the libretto and how the story is told through the confluence of words and music. Her work in film makes her especially curious about the productions which bring these stories to the stage. As a result of her tendency to over-analyze and intellectualize (thanks in part to her law degree), she'd like to thank the audience in advance for reminding her that opera, above all, is meant to be enjoyed!

JENNY LORENTOWICZ

Jenny is a librarian with extensive experience in education having worked in both Montreal and Toronto. She speaks on library issues throughout Canada and the United States.

Jenny came to Toronto in 1980 and became active in the opera scene here, serving on the board of *Opera Canada* magazine and on the executive of the Toronto Wagner Society. She has also volunteered her time in many capacities for the Canadian Opera Company and other cultural organizations.

Jenny is entering her ninth year of giving pre-performance chats.

BRIAN McMILLAN

Brian is the new Director of the Music Library at Western University in London, Ontario. In addition to a Masters of Information Studies from the University of Toronto, he holds a bachelors and masters in voice performance from McGill University. He has sung professionally with several ensembles across Canada including the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, Aradia Ensemble, Quebec's Les Violons du roy, and the chorus of the Canadian Opera Company.

ROBERT MORASSUTTI

Robert has devoted his entire career to the field of developmental services. He is currently the CEO of Montage Support Services, a non-profit organization that provides a wide range of support services for adults with developmental and physical disabilities.

He has been a member of the COC's Volunteer Speakers Bureau since its inception, giving pre-performance chats, leading building tours, hosting "Appetite for Opera," and the "Bite" opera series.

In the spare time he has left, Robert is a *sensei* [SEN-say] in *ikebana* [ick-eh-BA-na], which means he is a master in the Japanese art of flower arranging.

LEONARD ROSMARIN

Dr. Leonard Rosmarin is Professor Emeritus of French literature at Brock University, and has been Visiting Professor at the School for Doctoral Studies at the University of Perpignan [Per-peen-YAWN] in France. On his retirement, Brock University set up a scholarship in his honour.

He has written ten books including a study on the relationship between opera and literature titled *When Literature Becomes Opera*. He has been decorated twice by the Government of France in recognition of his outstanding services in the cause of French letters.

He is also a self-confessed opera addict from way back.

JOHN RUTHERFORD

John has taught courses on Art and Opera in Continuing Studies at the University of Toronto and Ryerson University.

John has been a Friend of the COC for a number of years and a friend of opera in general for almost a lifetime.

This year marks John's 22nd season giving pre-performance chats for the Canadian Opera Company.

NEIL STORY

Neil's background is in banking, a role that took him to New York and on regular visits to the Met. His passion for opera was acquired at an early age and he has since taken every opportunity to educate himself and others on all aspects of opera.

At present he gainfully occupies himself in teaching, corporate training and consultancy work. His other loves, apart from opera, are: reading, listening to live music, public speaking, cryptic crosswords and wine tasting.