



PINE MOUNTAIN
MUSIC FESTIVAL

VOL. 18 NO. 1, SPRING 2011 | THE ROCKLAND SEASON

Notes

Festival Is Set to Amaze

—Peter Van Pelt, Executive Director



Peter Van Pelt

It is pretty amazing. In northern Michigan, with its sparse population and no mega-corporations to provide financial support, a small classical music festival has not only survived in a difficult economy but has even commissioned a new opera. This is something that is usually done by opera companies with vastly more resources than Pine Mountain Music Festival has ever had.

In early 2006, John Kiltinen came to the Festival with the idea of a new opera based on historical incidents in the town of Rockland. In July 2006, we wrote to Jukka Linkola about composing the opera and to Esa Ruuttunen, artistic director of the music festival in Nivala, Finland, about a collaboration. In September 2007, the Board discussed a more fully-developed description of the opera project and officially voted to pursue the idea.

In September 2008, Mr. Kiltinen reported that he had raised \$130,000 for the commissioning phase to cover libretto-writing, composing, and music transcription. Composer Jukka Linkola and librettist Jussi Tapola were present at that meeting and discussed the project with the Board. The Board considered a commissioning agreement drafted by Mr. Kiltinen and formally approved it subject to legal review.

As you can see, the project has been gestating for some considerable time. Not only that, but the international collaboration between PMMF and the organization in Nivala, Finland, has been part of the project from the beginning. That, too, is pretty amazing.

For those on the outside, it is a wonderment that such a small festival can pull off such a large project. Sometimes even we on the inside consider it a wonderment.

I invite you to turn to page 7 and consider making a donation to help us with this ambitious season. Your gift will be matched one-for-one! Every community needs healthy arts organizations. And healthy arts organizations need you. It's amazing how that works.

The Rockland Season Will Rock—It's Official

—Joshua Major, Artistic Director

PINE MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL SEASON 21 WWW.PMMF.ORG

Christina Harmon Organ Recital
Opening Galas
American Poijat Brass Septet
Esa Ruuttunen & Craig Randal Johnson in Recital
Jonathan & Stephanie Shames: Two Pianos, Four Hands
PMMF String Octet
New York & Paris in Revue!
Rockland the Opera

THE Rockland SEASON

JUNE 13 - JULY 17, 2011

CLASSICAL • OPERA • CHAMBER MUSIC
Joshua Major, Artistic Director

Producing a new opera is a Big Deal. The quantity of human energy that must be coordinated is staggering, involving over 100 individuals, and the planning takes years. My challenge has been to hire the best people to work together to bring this great new opera to life, and I am proud that we are featuring some of the best talent in the nation both on and off the stage.

Before we get to *Rockland*, our season will open with galas in Iron Mountain and the Keweenaw. Jerry DePuit leads our Resident Opera Artists in a revue celebrating New York and Paris, including music by Cole Porter, Richard

Rodgers, and Edith Piaf among others. Baritone Esa Ruuttunen and pianist Craig Randal Johnson present a recital featuring music of Finland. Jonathan and Stephanie Shames, last seen at the Festival in 2004, return to present a concert for four hands on two pianos. Joel Neves and Mark Flaherty, on trumpet, join returning organist Christina Harmon for concerts on the wonderful organs in the U.P. Eight members of our Opera Orchestra will present an evening of string chamber music – Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, and Shostakovich are featured. Finally, Ameriikan Poijat – The Boys of America, a brass septet with an enormous following, will bring their diverse music to our stages and support the tradition of Finnish music in our communities.

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The Rockland Season Will Rock—It's Official

(continued from page 1)

Jussi Tapola, librettist and stage director with Finnish National Opera in Helsinki, will be the director of *Rockland*. He has a deft and human touch in all his work. Triple threat Craig Randal Johnson (conductor, pianist, and bassist) has championed much of Jukka Linkola's music and, as conductor of *Rockland*, will bring great leadership to the opera.



Joshua Major

Barbara Shirvis, one of America's most accomplished sopranos, joins us to sing the role of Johanna. Singing Johanna's husband, Pekka, is Mark Walters, who sang with PMMF in 1998; his powerful voice and stage presence have been winning brilliant reviews. Finland's leading baritone, Esa Ruuttunen, will sing the role of Alfred Laakso. William Joyner, singing the role of William,

the underground foreman, is making his debut with the Paris Opera just prior to his PMMF debut. Peter Halverson, who has won praise for his work throughout the United States, will be singing Pastor Rantanen. Paul Truckey, a resident of Marquette, will bring his stage magic to *Rockland* and will sing the comic relief, Pete Casavino. Christopher Temporelli, one of our ROAs in 2005, will return as a guest artist to sing the roles of Thomas Morton and Sven Polkki. The remaining roles will be sung by our Resident Opera Artists with the usual flair and quality. Our chorus, under the direction of Ann Campbell, will feature local singers and a few guests from Concordia College, Moorhead.

Our designers include Tom Burch (set), on the faculty of the University of Chicago; Suzanne Young (costumes), returning having designed PMMF costumes for the last two seasons; and Helena Kuukka (lighting), a Finn who has made her home and career in the United States for the past 15 years.

Our orchestra of 43 players is one of the largest fully professional orchestras we have ever had. Players from Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra, South Bend Orchestra, Keweenaw and Marquette Symphony Orchestras, and others join together to give life to Jukka Linkola's remarkable score.

The scope and complexity of bringing *Rockland* to life reflects the maturity of Pine Mountain Music Festival. The reputation of the Festival has grown to international levels, and the music we make is worthy of any stage in the world. We are fortunate to have a community that is world-class in its dedication to the Festival. Thank you!

Task Force Prepares for *Rockland* Premiere

—Candace Koski Janners, Trustee & Chair, Rockland Task Force



Candace Koski Janners

Sometimes, history sneaks up on us. Reaching across the years, *Rockland* the opera brings a long-forgotten local historic episode to life. The importance of the Rockland strike in 1906 was enormous, locally and nationally. Bringing the story of these events to the stage, in the form of a new opera is also enormous!

In order to plan and coordinate the many steps leading to the premiere, the Festival appointed a Rockland Task Force in April 2009. Composed of eight dedicated individuals, the group has met nearly monthly for the past two years to plan fund-raising and marketing for the "New World" premiere in July 2011.

The first priority was to enhance awareness of *Rockland* as a basis for building audience and donor support. This was done in several ways. Mary Wright was engaged by PMMF and the Task Force to develop a community art project, "The Story Line," in support of *Rockland* (see article on page 8). A *Rockland* page on the PMMF website was created to provide ongoing information about the opera and related activities, and press releases are being issued. In January 2010, a press conference was held to announce *Rockland*. The Task Force arranged with Carl Pellonpaa of "Finland Calling," a weekly TV show out of Marquette, for a series of interviews on the opera's development.

Rockland and PMMF were represented at Finn Grand Fest in Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario, in July 2010 contributing to increased audience potential and donor interest. This event also show-cased the unique collaboration between PMMF and the Jokilaakso Music Foundation which is producing the "Old World" premiere in Nivala, Finland, in June 2011. Association with other entities such as the Finnish Council in America, the Keweenaw National Historical Park, the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, local historical societies, and various community organizations has also advanced awareness of *Rockland* and its musical, historical, and cultural significance.

Task Force members Pauline and John Kiltinen deserve special recognition for the vision, energy, and resources they have brought to the project. It is a privilege to be involved with the development of an important new opera and to work with individuals so committed to its success.

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The Big Three of *Rockland*

When any new opera is premiered, there are many people who are indispensable, but three in particular stand out: the composer, the librettist, and the conductor. We introduce them here.



Jukka Linkola

The opera *Rockland* was composed by Jukka Linkola, a prolific Finnish composer. Besides opera and musical theater, he has written big band, jazz, chamber, choral, symphony and solo instrument works, and is also a pianist and conductor.

His previous operas include *Elin* (1991), *Angelika* (1992) which won awards in Paris and Cannes, and *Matka* (1998), and his latest opera, *Robin Hood*, was premiered in Helsinki just a couple of months ago. He has received numerous awards and international prizes.



Jussi Tapola

The librettist of *Rockland* is Jussi Tapola. He has worked as director and librettist in the operatic world for more than thirty years. He has also directed for television. He has directed nearly 200 opera productions, including those of Finnish National Opera, Tampere Opera, and Pori Opera.

He has taught performance skills and directed opera productions at the Sibelius Academy. He will be the stage director of *Rockland* for both the Nivala and the Houghton productions.



Craig Randal Johnson

The conductor of the U.S. performances will be Craig Randal Johnson. He is a Minneapolis-based conductor, pianist and double-bassist, and a strong proponent of Finnish music.

He has conducted FinnFest USA concerts in Minneapolis, Marquette, and Ashtabula, OH, and will be artistic director for the concerts at FinnFest USA in San Diego in 2011. He conducted the premiere of Jukka Linkola's double bass concerto at Finn Grand Fest in Marquette in 2005.

Principal Singers

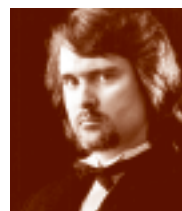
This year, for the first time in several years, we have contracted a number of principal singers for the main roles in *Rockland*. These are singers who are fully into their professional careers. Here we present brief bios of them.



Esa Ruuttunen

Esa Ruuttunen, baritone, will sing the role of Alfred Laakso, who opens and closes the opera. Mr. Ruuttunen began as a guest singer for Finnish National Opera in 1985. He debuted in London's Covent Garden in 2000, and that same year he was the Artist of the Year at the Savonlinna Opera Festival. In

recent years Esa Ruuttunen has created a growing international career as guest soloist in the U.S. and in Europe. He is Artistic Director of Jokilaakso Music Foundation, which will produce the Old World Premiere of *Rockland* in Nivala, Finland, in June.



William Joyner

William Joyner, tenor, will sing the role of William Jackson. He is a regular guest of opera companies and orchestras around the world. In the U.S., he has appeared with Washington Opera, New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Minnesota Opera, Florentine Opera, and Sarasota Opera among others, and with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and New York Philharmonic. In Europe, he has appeared with the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Rome Opera, Opéra National de Paris, Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin, and others. He will sing the William Jackson role both in Nivala and in Houghton.

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Principal Singers

(continued from page 3)



Peter Halverson

Peter Halverson, baritone, will sing the role of Pastor Rantanen. He has performed throughout the United States for 25 years in opera, operetta, musical theater, oratorio, concerts and recitals. Recent performances include Dr. Falke in *Die Fledermaus* with Opera Southwest, Simon in Haydn's *The Seasons* with the Oslo Cathedral Choir and Oslo Baroque Orchestra, Germont in *La Traviata* with Fargo/Moorhead Opera and Pa Joad in Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Grapes of Wrath* at Carnegie Hall and with Minnesota Opera. Mr. Halverson is an Associate Professor of Voice at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN.



Barbara Shirvis

Barbara Shirvis, soprano, will sing the role of Johanna. Her credits include many roles in a wide variety of opera houses and concert halls including as Alice Ford in *Falstaff* at Toledo Opera, Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* at Utah Opera and Aspen Festival, Liù in *Turandot* at Kentucky Opera, Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* at Cleveland Opera, the title role in *Tosca* at Minnesota Orchestra and New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* with New Mexico Symphony, and many others. Her appearances with New York City Opera include Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* and Micaëla in *Carmen*.



Mark Walters

Mark Walters, baritone, will sing the role of Pekka. His recent performances of *Rigoletto*, *Il trovatore*, *La traviata*, *Aida*, and *La forza del destino* have established him as a baritone to watch. He made his European debut in *La Traviata* last summer with Den Nye Opera in Bergen, Norway, and was recently seen in Osaka, Japan in the title role of *Don Giovanni*. He has performed at Carnegie Hall in Orff's *Carmina Burana* and the Fauré *Requiem*. This will be a return appearance at PMMF for Mark; he sang Germont in our 1998 production of *La Traviata*.



Paul Truckey

Paul Truckey, tenor, will sing the role of the barber, Pete Casavino. Paul has been a Professor of Theatre at Northern Michigan University since 2003. While at NMU he has directed numerous productions including, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Foreigner*, *The Full Monty*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Tell-Tale*, and *Our Town*. Professional acting credits include *Les Miserables*, *The Fantasticks*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Three Sisters*, *The Mikado*, and *She Stoops to Conquer*. His TV credits include *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* and *The Today Show*.



Christopher Temporelli

Christopher Temporelli, bass, will sing the roles of Sven Polki and Thomas Morton. He has performed main-stage roles with such renowned companies as Glimmerglass Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Lake George Opera, Virginia Opera, Toronto, Syracuse Opera, and New York City Opera. He has performed at Carnegie, Weill Hall as a winner in the Liederkrantz Competition and at Kennedy Center as soloist with the Washington Chorus. Christopher sang Alidoro in PMMF's production of *La Cenerentola* in 2005. This spring he will sing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with Pinchas Zukerman and the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

Appreciation for Grants Received

We recently received word that the Festival has been granted \$7,500 by Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs in support of *Rockland*, and we are most grateful. Earlier we were awarded a grant of \$2,500 by the Advisory Commission of Keweenaw National Historical Park to help underwrite the printing of this season's program which will include historical information relevant to the opera and local history.

Other grant applications have been submitted to the National Endowment for the Arts, Finlandia Foundation National, American-Scandinavian Foundation, and Finn Spark. We appreciate these institutions that work hard to support the cultural life of our communities.

Resident Opera Artists

This year our Resident Opera Artists will sing secondary roles in *Rockland* as well as in New York and Paris in *Revue!* and the Keweenaw and Dickinson opening galas. One of this year's ROAs is a Yooper and another is a returnee. We are so pleased to have all of them with us for the season.



James Plante

James Plante, tenor, will sing the role of Kivi. He is a native of Minneapolis, MN, and has performed with such companies as Minnesota Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Kansas Concert Opera, The Arizona Broadway Theater, and Greenville Light Opera Works.

James has also appeared as an apprentice artist with Lyric Opera of Kansas City. He holds a B.M. in voice from the University of Minnesota and an M.M. in opera from the University of Kansas.



Danielle Teter

Danielle Teter, soprano, is a local singer and has been singing in the chorus of Pine Mountain Music Festival operas since 2001 when, at 13, she joined the chorus for the world premiere of *The Children of the Keweenaw*. She is a recent graduate of

Northern Michigan University, where she received a Special Faculty Citation in Music Award. Danielle will pursue a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance in the fall and is thrilled to continue her work with Pine Mountain Music Festival.



Kyle Tomlin

Kyle Tomlin, tenor, will sing the role of John. He earned his B.A. in Music from Penn State and is now pursuing a Master's in Vocal Performance from the University of Michigan. His most recent performances include Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore* and Le Chevalier Danois in *Armide* with University

of Michigan Opera Theatre, Tom Snout in the U of M graduate workshop's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the First Sailor in *Dido and Aeneas* with the Metropolitan Baroque Ensemble.



Jennifer Trombley

Jennifer Trombley, singing the role of Rauha, is a mezzo-soprano who has performed in opera, oratorio, and concert settings throughout America. Recent engagements include the title role in *La Cenerentola* with Bay View Music Festival and the title role in Peter Brooks' adaptation of *Carmen*

with University of Michigan. For two summers she was in the Apprentice Artist program at Des Moines Opera and is currently a Resident Artist at Pensacola Opera. She holds a degree in Music Performance and Music Education from University of Michigan.



Heather Youngquist

Heather Youngquist, soprano, was a Resident Opera Artist with PMMF in 2009 when she performed in the Cole Porter *Revue* and sang the role of Elisetta in Cimarosa's *Il Matrimonio Segreto*. Since then, Heather has continued her studies in voice at Indiana University, where she completed a M.M. degree in Voice Performance in 2009.

Also in 2009 she was selected as a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in the Central Illinois District. She teaches voice privately and is an Adjunct Professor at Vincennes University.

Rockland

The Story of the Logo

The Rockland logo has three special features. The stem of the "d" in the shape of a miner's pick conveys that the opera concerns the mining industry and the life of the workingman.

The "o" in the form of a white rose reflects the fact that Alfred Laakso, the Finnish miner whose first-hand account of the 1906 events is the basis of the opera, was a member of the White Rose Temperance Society in Rockland.

Finally, the "R" has a long arm in the form of a rose stem with thorns, a reminder that life is not always easy. If life is "a bed of roses," the roses may come with thorns.

2011 Season Events All events at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise noted.	Dickinson Area	Keweenaw Area	Marquette Area	Other Locations
Keweenaw Kickoff Gala		June 13 (5:30 PM)		
Chippewa Club Gala	June 14 (5 PM)			
New York and Paris in Revue!	June 19 (3 PM)	June 21	June 16	June 17 - Escanaba June 20 - Ironwood
Christina Harmon Organ Recital	June 22	June 20	June 27	June 24 - Escanaba
Esa Ruuttunen and Craig Randal Johnson Recital	June 25	June 27	June 23	
Jonathan & Stephanie Shames: Two Pianos, Four Hands		July 1	June 29	
PMMF String Octet	July 6	July 8	July 11	July 7 - Ironwood
Ameriikan Poijat Brass Septet		July 14 (7 PM)		July 12 - Ironwood
<i>Rockland</i> the Opera		July 15 July 17 (3 PM)		

For information, call PMMF at 1-888-309-7861 or visit www.pmmf.org • Ticket brochures will be mailed in April • Tickets go on sale May 1

Task Force Prepares for *Rockland* Premiere

(continued from page 2)

Rockland connects the past to the present, and to the future, as it lives on in continued performances. For me, *Rockland* also illustrates a personal connection to history.

July 31, 1906: "Called to Rockland, 8 PM, as coroner. Strike amongst Finnish trammers and miners, riot resulting. Two killed, several wounded."

James Corgan, my great-grandfather, was the Ontonagon County Coroner called to Rockland on that July evening in 1906. My great-uncle served as a juror during the Coroner's inquest and another great-uncle served on the jury which acquitted the miners in March 1907. The Irish lawyer Patrick Henry O'Brien, who defended the Finnish miners, was a good friend of my grandfather Harry Corgan. Mr. O'Brien later became Attorney General of Michigan.

Having family members as witnesses to this history makes it very real. Through the "magic" of opera, *Rockland* will bring this history to life for others, not to be forgotten again. Sometimes, history sneaks up on us...

The Pine Mountain Music Festival "Cast"

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Special Events in Support of *Rockland*

A series of special events is planned in support of the premiere of the opera *Rockland*. They are tentatively planned to be held at the Jutila Center, Finlandia University in Hancock (the old hospital building).

Tuesday, July 12, 5:00 p.m.

Carl Rahkonen, Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year, will give a talk entitled "The Finnish American Musical Journey: From Rune Singing to the Rockland Opera." He will perform on a number of musical instruments. This event is co-sponsored by the Copper Country Finlandia Foundation Chapter.

Wednesday, July 13, 5:00 p.m.

A symposium on the commissioning of new music will be presented. Panel members will be John and Pauline Kiltinen, Gloria Jackson, Jukka Linkola, Peter Van Pelt, and Jaana Juntto-Rautio.

Thursday, July 14, 5:00 p.m.

Historian, teacher, and author Larry Lankton will talk on the history and conditions of the mining industry in the Copper Country around the time of the opera.

Saturday, July 16, 7:00 p.m.

Historian and retired teacher Arnold Alanen will give a talk, illustrated with slides, on the Finnish impact on the cultural landscape in North America, with special attention to Rockland.

Introducing New Trustees

Robert Lind has joined the Board of Trustees. He is a graduate of Michigan Tech in physics and was a Fulbright Scholar. He is a professor emeritus from University of Wisconsin – Platteville, and lives near Ontonagon with his wife, Eugenia.

Ellen Campbell has also joined the Board. She is vice president and chief operating officer of The Nitrate Elimination Company, Inc., in Lake Linden. She is a graduate of SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, and has attended PMMF events since its inception.

The Festival and You—Donations Doubled!

The recession from which the country may be emerging has not been kind to nonprofits. Many arts organizations have had to reduce their programs and some have even closed.

Yet Pine Mountain Music Festival has survived intact, and this year is even expanding with its fully-staged production of *Rockland*, which is relatively expensive. Our budget this year, at \$505,000, is about a hundred thousand dollars higher than last year.

How will we make it? With your help. If you have not already done so, this is an excellent time to make a donation, since a **generous anonymous supporter has pledged to match donations one-for-one up to \$50,000**. Your gift will be doubled!

Please clip and return the remittance slip below with your gift. Thank you!



Support Pine Mountain Music Festival

To: Pine Mountain Music Festival
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Notes

The Story Line Project



Mary Wright with a Story Line in the lobby of the Rozsa Center, Houghton, at the January 2010 press conference announcing *Rockland*.

Rockland the opera has led to a most original, creative, and history-making project that is resonating through many schools and towns in the Upper Peninsula.

Since late 2009, Mary Wright, community artist, has been working with area schools to engage young people in researching the stories of an ancestor and writing that story in a paragraph or two that is then transferred to a dishtowel-size

panel of cloth, usually with a photograph of that ancestor. The panels are then strung on clotheslines—the “story line” —and displayed for many others to see and read. Teachers and parents become caught up in the project and it becomes a family affair, a school-wide program, and a celebration of personal history.

Schools in many U.P. communities have followed through on this and have mounted large displays of the finished panels. Every panel has the Rockland and PMMF logos on the bottom, so they become part of the outreach effort for the new opera. The Story Line Project will culminate with a large display of the panels at the Rozsa Center at the time of the opera premiere in July.

The Story Line Project is supported by gifts from private donors and by generous grants from the Michigan Humanities Council. It received an attractive write-up in the last issue of the Humanities Council newsletter which goes to a wide audience.

