ROCKLAND –
TRIUMPHANT PREMIERE OF U.P. OPERA

In this newsletter we usually look forward to the coming season. But this time we cannot resist looking back at the triumphant premiere of the U.P. opera Rockland last July.

Pine Mountain Music Festival commissioned this opera in a process that started in 2006, and it culminated in two sold-out performances at the Rozsa Center in Houghton, with prolonged standing ovations, and an ongoing stream of positive comments afterwards. This was a full-scale production, with a cast of 50 and an orchestra of 43.

The music, by Finnish composer Jukka Linkola, was very popular. Reviewer Michael Margolin, writing in Opera magazine (January 2012) wrote, “The score is lush, and quite elastic in rhythm and timbre – although in the first act it seems restrained, only hinting at the huge events to come. The choral writing, in particular, is eloquent….The conductor Craig Randal Johnson brought out the darkness in the music, kept the score and the singers well balanced, and made the musical climaxes pay off.”

Audience comments afterwards focused not only on the core story of the 1906 strike in the copper-mining town of Rockland, but also on the larger themes of labor-management strife, unsafe working conditions, social injustice and the immigrant experience. The opera’s origin may have been in a specific incident in the U.P. in 1906, but its content and message are vastly deeper, more meaningful, and more universal than that.

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2012: A SEASON SERVED WITH LOVE

—Joshua Major, Artistic Director

Welcome to our 22nd season – “It’s All about Love: from Mozart to Sondheim.” It has been no small task to create a new season, with memories of last summer’s Rockland so fresh. However, we are excited to move ahead and present a season of concerts based on the timeless theme of love.

Our two productions this summer, Mozart’s Cosi fan tutte and Sondheim’s A Little Night Music, offer two views of love from very different perspectives. Cosi looks at teenagers and how our views of love are formed. They start with an ideal but learn that love is complicated; they must try to figure out life, love and relationships. A Little Night Music deals with characters much further along in life, still trying to answer the same questions. Both productions offer comedy and an insightful look at human nature and our search for love.

Lucy Thrasher and I spent many hours auditioning and we have some of the finest young singers in the country joining us this summer.

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SANDRA LEWIN NAMED AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sandra Lewin has assumed the role of Executive Director of Pine Mountain Music Festival, effective January 30, 2012.

Sandy comes to the position with a wealth of relevant experience. She grew up in the Upper Peninsula and studied at Michigan Technological University. At age 18 she founded and operated a fast food restaurant for six years called The Filling Station in Calumet. She then held a succession of positions over 15 years at the J. Robert Van Pelt Library at

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The July 17 performance of Rockland was webstreamed live, and then repeated twice in the following week – and the total audience for these broadcasts was over 60,000 viewers in 28 countries.

Rockland was such a success that it has momentum for the future. In the summer of 2013, FinnFest USA will be held in Houghton/Hancock, and several thousand Finns will be in town. We are considering possible repeat performances of Rockland at that time since the opera has such strong Finnish connections.

At the time of writing, arrangements are being made to broadcast Rockland on WCMU public television in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, covering a good part of the Lower Peninsula. It is possible that other Public TV stations will follow suit.

The Festival is informing a number of other opera companies around the country about the existence and success of the opera Rockland, hoping that they will also want to stage it. Finally, producer Suzanne Jurva is preparing a documentary about Rockland which has the potential for future viewings on TV and at film festivals.

All in all, the immediate success of Rockland and its prospects for a future life give it an exceptional reputation among newly-premiered operas.

Così fan tutte will feature six gifted Resident Opera Artists (ROAs) and A Little Night Music will feature those six plus three other ROAs and three guest artists: Lucy Thrasher herself will be featured as Désirée Armfeldt; Marquette’s own Paul Truckey will join us as Fredrick; and I am proud to present the sensational singer Luretta Bybee as Madame Armfeldt. Returning to conduct Così fan tutte will be Joseph Mechavich, who conducted Il Matrimonio Segreto with PMMF three years ago. Jerry DePuit, whom we all know as the brilliant creator of the revues that we have presented for the past eight seasons, will return to conduct and play keyboard for A Little Night Music.

We are happy to announce that the Bergonzi String Quartet will return after a year’s absence from the Festival. They will bring their charm, humor and great music-making to the Festival stage once again. They will be joined by piano sensation Tian Ying to offer a version of Gershwin’s masterpiece “Rhapsody in Blue” for string quartet and piano. Please join me in letting the quartet know how much they were missed!

Opening our season will be our usual Galas, where you will have a chance to meet six of our Resident Opera Artists up close and personal. The international guitar sensation, Ana Vidovic, returns after blowing us away with her playing in 2007 and 2008. Tian Ying leads us through an evening of Brahms, which will include solo piano repertoire, the Liebeslieder Waltzes featuring four of our ROAs, and two lullabies with Pamela McConnell of the Bergonzi String Quartet on viola. Michigan native and rising star, Jeremy Tarrant, will offer our annual organ recital, and we are pleased to welcome the Third Coast Brass ensemble in an evening of brass quintet repertoire featuring players who have all played with our orchestra in the past.

A special feature of the Festival this year will be a concert featuring-up-and-coming musicians from the Upper Peninsula entitled “UPstarts.” Tenor Miles Mykkanen from Bessemer and soprano Amanda Boundy from Eben Junction will team up with Savannah Clayton, a flute player from Calumet, and Susie Byykkonen, a pianist from Calumet, to give our audiences an exciting look at what the U.P. can accomplish!

It is with love that I love to offer you this season on love. It promises to be an exhilarating season and I look forward to seeing you in the concert halls this summer!
SANDRA LEWIN NAMED AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Michigan Technological University with increasingly significant managerial and budgetary responsibilities.

In 1998, she began her career in fundraising, first serving as the Assistant Director of Prospect Research at the Michigan Tech Fund and then as the Director of Prospect Management and Research for MTU’s University Development. Most recently she worked as the Director of Community and Donor Relations at Omega House in Houghton where she launched, updated and/or organized numerous annual, major and planned giving programs in support of the hospice home.

Sandy’s extensive record of community service is equally relevant to her new role. For over 28 years she has been active with the Calumet Players, serving as president, secretary, actress and musician, and in backstage roles. She has served on the board of the Calumet Theatre and chair of its Fundraising Committee and as stage crew member. For nearly 20 years she sang with the Copper Country Chorale. She is currently on the boards of the Calumet Players and the Miscowaubik Club in Calumet.

Sandy lives in Calumet with her husband, Jeff. She has two grown daughters and two grandchildren. In addition to her passions of music and theater, she is also a dog sled handler for the Sharks Came Racing sled dog team in Calumet.

OPERATION IMAGINATION

The Festival’s in-school music enrichment program, OPERAtion Imagination, is alive and well this year with thanks to a generous grant from the Rislov Foundation in Ann Arbor. OPERAtion Imagination will be held in six schools in the Houghton and Keweenaw districts this year.

In the program, several singers led by Ann Campbell and accompanied by pianist Susie Byykkonen, visit schools to demonstrate what opera is all about, often involving some of the children in bit parts. Later, the most interested youngsters participate in a workshop where they create their own mini-opera and perform it for parents. Area schools appreciate the program while teachers have many heart-warming stories of how the children respond and benefit from it.

2012 schedule
March 27: Barkell Elementary, Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Elementary, CLK Elementary
March 28: Houghton Elementary, Lake Linden-Hubbell Elementary, Chassell Elementary
May 5: Afternoon workshop, Rosza Center for the Performing Arts, Houghton

For more information about the program, call Jane De Martini 906-482-1542 or email festival@pmmf.org.

A DREAM COME TRUE!
—Sandra Lewin, Executive Director

If you would have told me years ago that I would one day follow in the footsteps of Kathy Tompkins or Peter Van Pelt as Executive Director of Pine Mountain Music Festival, I would have told you it was a pipe dream. But, here I am in that very coveted place. I feel very fortunate to take over the reins from two people who had the foresight — and energy — to make the Festival the success it is today. I am honored and thrilled to be part of this wonderful organization.

As I move into my new role, I am meeting many wonderful PMMF supporters – volunteers, Board members, friends, performers. As I expected, there is great passion among our supporters for the mission of the Festival and for the quality programming we provide. Our supporters are the reason we celebrate the upcoming Season 22!

In addition, we have a top-notch staff with Artistic Director, Joshua Major, our dedicated Office Manager, Karen Fredrickson, and two new-comers: Operations Manager, Jane De Martini and Marketing & Development Associate, Jeni Jobst. I am grateful we have excellent staff who work diligently to produce quality performances year after year.

Rockland was a huge success in 2011. How do you follow a season like that? I’m glad to say that our very talented Joshua Major has created a fabulous 2012 season that is sure to please. The beloved Bergonzi String Quartet returns to the stage this year as well as Ana Vidovic who has graced our stage in the past. Joshua has also brilliantly put together two operas that share the same theme — It’s All About Love. Please see page 10 for our upcoming performances and venues.

I hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you during the Festival!

Peter Van Pelt and Sandra Lewin
Joshua Major and I had a very successful but tricky audition season last winter. Our task was to choose six Resident Opera Artists to perform Mozart’s *Cosi fan tutte*, an opera with some of the most diva-esque, bravura arias ever written, and some of the most intimate and balanced ensemble singing. But these same singers will sing in Sondheim’s *A Little Night Music*, where the style is altogether different, closer to musical theatre. We believe we’ve assembled a cast that can do double duty.

In her audition, mezzo-soprano Claire Shackleton’s rendition of Dorabella’s aria “Smanie” (a teenage girl’s hissy fit and drama queen display) had Josh and me in stitches! Her delivery was spot on, with color, dynamic range, excellent text delivery and storytelling and a beautiful rich voice. Claire has recently been in residence at Kentucky Opera as a young artist. She will also perform the role of Charlotte in *A Little Night Music*, a haughty and angry role….but she is up to any acting challenge!

Singing the role of Fiordiligi is soprano Jacqueline Shoda-Iwasaki. Jacqueline was fighting a cold and had to postpone her audition, but she was worth waiting for! She showed us a strong voice, a strong command of her character, and a great sense of humor. Jacqueline most recently has been an artist in residence at Opera Tampa in Florida. She will sing the role of Mrs. Segstrom in *A Little Night Music*, one of the five “Liebeslieder Singers.”

The role of Guglielmo will be performed by baritone Alex DeSocio, who comes to us from the opera performance program at the University of Maryland. Alex has a big, beautiful baritone voice with major opera house potential. We are hearing him at the start of what we believe could be a very exciting career. He can act, too! Alex will sing the role of the pompous military man Count Carl-Magnus in *A Little Night Music*, all bluster and bravado!

Our tenor, Martin Bakari, will sing the role of Ferrando. Martin is currently a student at Juilliard, and sings with exquisite musicality and expression. I got goosebumps during his audition--and that is not common at a long day of auditions! He brings a great deal of intensity and passion to his performing as well, which will be perfect for his role as Henrik in *A Little Night Music*.

In our production, Despina, the maid and Don Alfonso’s partner in crime, needs to have a big voice to balance the strong voices we chose for the four lovers, and the role requires acting ability, too. We chose Julie Tabash, who is working on her Master’s at Northwestern. Julie had really strong use of text and a vibrant, intense tone quality, and clearly enjoys acting. Julie will sing the role of Anne in *A Little Night Music*.

And finally, for Don Alfonso, the character who sets *Cosi fan tutte* in motion, we chose Jonathan Christopher, a baritone with bass-baritone qualities and a tall, elegant physical presence. He is a terrific actor and an intense singer. Jonathan is working on his Master’s degree at McGill University and will bring his wit and experience to the crafty character of Don Alfonso. He will sing the role of Mr. Lindquist in *A Little Night Music*.
COSI FAN TUTTE, A GEM BY MOZART

Mozart’s Così fan tutte, the product of a brilliant composer and a clever librettist (Lorenzo da Ponte, who ended his days in New York!), is one of the best-known and most-loved operas. The title means “Thus do all women,” and often bears the alternative title in English of “School for Lovers.” Its theme of fiancée-swapping is an old one, and offers ample room both for comedy and for insight into human nature.

As Artistic Director Joshua Major says, “Così looks at teenagers and how our views of love are formed; they start with an ideal but learn that love is complicated.” The four young lovers are capable of making their own mistakes, but they are helped along by two mischief-makers, Don Alfonso and Despina. All six roles are sung by the gifted Resident Opera Artists shown on the previous page.

Returning to conduct Così fan tutte will be Joseph Mechavich, who conducted Il matrimonio segreto with PMMF three years ago. Last month he conducted San Diego Opera’s west coast premiere of Jake Heggie’s Moby-Dick. He has been music director and principal conductor of Kentucky Opera and principal conductor of Opera Birmingham, and has guest conducted the Deutsche Oper Berlin, New York City Opera, Washington National Opera, Dayton Opera and Calgary Opera, among others. He is a native of Minnesota.

This production of Così, with its orchestra of 20, will be stage-directed by Joshua Major. It will tour to Calumet, Marquette, and Norway, Michigan in June.

THREE OPENING GALAS!

The six Resident Opera Artists profiled to the left will be the feature attraction at opening Galas in Marquette (in a private home on June 7), Houghton (on the stage of the Rozsa Center on June 12) and Iron Mountain (at the Chippewa Club on June 13). These very special and intimate events are the kickoff for the whole season.

We are especially pleased to be able to offer an opening Gala in Marquette this year, which has not been the case in recent years.

Gala-goers in the past have said they enjoy getting to know the artists at the start of the season, partly because that enriches their experience when they see them on the stage at larger events later in the season.

ANA VIDOVIC, CLASSICAL GUITAR

Ana Vidovic, who was a stunning success when she played with PMMF in 2007 and 2008, will return in 2012. She is a highly acclaimed classical guitarist with a busy performance schedule; in fact, she will leave for a three-week performance tour to Japan immediately after her last PMMF concert this summer.

Her exceptional musicianship, technical mastery, and grace impressed our audiences on her previous visits here. She will offer a diverse program including music of Bach, Albeniz, Mangoré, Walton and others. This will be a special evening set in intimate venues in Iron Mountain, Marquette and Calumet.

“BLING & SING WITH STEPHEN SONDHEIM,” A NOTEWORTHY BENEFIT

In their 16th year performing as a volunteer women’s chorus group, Noteworthy will perform a “Bling & Sing with Stephen Sondheim” concert as a benefit for Pine Mountain Music Festival’s 22nd season. Led by Director Joan Petrelius, the group performs throughout the western Upper Peninsula for worthy, nonprofit causes. “Noteworthy began as a group of eight women who were devoted to barbershop music,” said Petrelius. “Over the years, our numbers have tripled, but we all still share that same devotion.” Their first director, Theresa Goodell, found venues for performances, and the group began putting on benefit concerts.

This spring Noteworthy will perform songs by Stephen Sondheim in three locations:

May 12, Calumet Theatre, Calumet
May 18, Ontonagon Theatre, Ontonagon
May 19, Pine Grove Country Club, Iron Mountain

The Festival is grateful for the support of this remarkable, or noteworthy, chorus. Details and ticket information will be available soon on our website, pmmf.org.
A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

As Artistic Director Joshua Major says, A Little Night Music deals with grown-up characters still wrestling with relationship issues. It is an old theme, masterfully presented by Stephen Sondheim with comedy, wistfulness and yearning, and in the end even a certain amount of resolution.

Our own Lucy Thrasher, who has directed the ROA program since 1998, will be featured as Désirée Armfeldt and has the joyful task of singing “Send in the Clowns,” one of the best-known pieces from the operetta. Paul Truckey of Marquette will join us as Fredrick after his brilliant cameo in Rockland. As Madame Armfeldt, we shall have Luretta Bybee, whom Joshua calls a “sensational singer.”

Our six Resident Opera Artists (see page 4) will also appear in A Little Night Music, as will Alison Scherzer singing the role of Mrs. Nordstrom, Natalie Easter as Mrs. Anderssen and Kyle Tomlin as Mr. Erlandson (see page 7).

Jerry DePuit, the brilliant creator of the revues that we have presented for the past eight seasons, will return to conduct and play keyboard for A Little Night Music. As a vocal coach, he taught at New York University, the American Academy of Vocal Arts, and elsewhere; as a musical director/pianist, he worked for many New York cabarets and theatrical organizations. He has been on the faculty of the Musical Theatre Department at University of Michigan since 1985.

This production, due to its scale, will play only at the Rozsa Center in Houghton. Since the opera is based on a Swedish theme, we will have a smorgasbord event on July 9 in support of the opera.

Soprano Lucy Thrasher has been a key player with Pine Mountain Music Festival since 1998 when she became director of our Resident Opera Artist program. She and Artistic Director Joshua Major conduct our singers’ auditions every year in Ann Arbor and New York. Lucy is an Associate Professor of Music at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. She has performed throughout the Upper Midwest as soloist in opera, oratorio, recital and symphonic works. Favorite roles include two that she has sung with PMMF: Susanna in Mozart’s Le Nozze di Figaro, and Musetta in Puccini’s La Bohème. She has recorded a CD called “Cabaret” with Stephen Sulich on piano.

Mezzo-soprano Luretta Bybee has had a dazzling career including many roles in many cities and countries. She is particularly known for her Carmen, having sung the Bizet heroine with the New York City and Seattle opera companies, among others, and in the world tour of Peter Brook’s La Tragédie de Carmen. Other significant roles include the title roles in Rossini’s L’Italiana in Algeri, Saint-Saëns’s Samson et Dalila, and Britten’s Rape of Lucretia. She has sung Verdi’s Requiem and Handel’s Messiah at Carnegie Hall.

She has lately served as director of the opera studies program at New England Conservatory. She will bring her humor, humanity and passion to the U.P. for three weeks this summer.

Paul Truckey is a Professor of Theatre at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, but among the audiences at last year’s premiere of Rockland he is better known as “Pete the Barber.” This role was one of the most distinctive roles in the opera, and his performance of it was very popular.

Paul’s professional acting credits include Les Miserables (Broadway and national touring companies), The Fantasticks, The Problem, Utah! (original company), Sunday in the Park with George, Romeo and Juliet, Nine, Three Sisters, and others. His TV credits include The Rosie O’Donnell Show and The Today Show.

Jerry DePuit
Lucy Thrasher
Luretta Bybee
Paul Truckey
An Evening of Brahms

In a season filled with exciting events, one of the most interesting will be the evening of Brahms. Tian Ying leads the program, which will include solo piano repertoire, the Liebeslieder (love song) Waltzes featuring four Resident Opera Artists, and two lullabies with Pamela McConnell of the Bergonzi String Quartet on viola.

Praised by the Boston Globe as “one of the finest pianists active in America,” Tian Ying, winner of many awards including high honors at the Eighth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, has become well known for his eloquent, poetic, dramatically intense performances. He has been profiled in The New York Times, and is professor of keyboard performance at the University of Miami’s Frost School of Music.

The singers will include soprano Alison Scherzer, mezzo-soprano Natalie Easter, tenor Kyle Tomlin (who sang in Rockland last summer), and baritone Jonathan Christopher (see page 4). They will also sing in A Little Night Music.

Bergonzi is Back!

The Bergonzi String Quartet will be back in 2012, after a one-year hiatus. This will be their 17th season with the Festival; they are based in Florida, but they love coming to the U.P. in the summer and over the years their charm, humor and great music-making have earned them many fans and friends here.

The quartet will be joined by piano sensation Tian Ying to offer a new version of Gershwin’s masterpiece “Rhapsody in Blue” for string quartet and piano. They will also play Ravel’s String Quartet in F major.

The Bergonzi concert will be presented in Houghton, Iron Mountain and Marquette. The Quartet also presents free children’s concerts in those towns.

Upstarts: U.P. Artists

Not only can the Upper Peninsula of Michigan nourish and sustain a classical music festival, but it has remarkable home-grown talent as well. In the UPstarts program, we will present exclusively U.P. artists.

Amanda Boundy, a soprano from Eben Junction in the central part of the U.P., is a recent graduate of Peabody Institute in Baltimore. Miles Mykkanen, a tenor from Bessemer in the western U.P., is studying voice at Juilliard School in New York.

Lucy Thrasher writes, “Josh and I were excited when these remarkable singers from the Upper Peninsula showed up to audition in New York, and we immediately wanted to support their careers.”

Susie Byykkonen of Calumet, whose sensitive and beautiful playing is already familiar to PMMF audiences, will be the piano accompanist. Rounding out the cast for this exciting concert will be Savannah Clayton from Calumet, a wonderful young flutist now enrolled at Ithaca College.
Jeremy David Tarrant is our featured organist in 2012. He is Organist and Choirmaster of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Episcopal) in Detroit where he directs a comprehensive music program that includes the Cathedral Choir School of Metropolitan Detroit. He was educated at the University of Michigan School of Music. He is an active concert organist and has performed throughout North America and Europe. The organ concert will be performed in Calumet, Ishpeming and Iron Mountain.

We are very pleased to welcome Third Coast Brass in an evening of classical brass quintet repertoire. All five members of the group have played with our orchestra in the past. The quintet includes (L-R) trombonists Reed Capshaw and Mark Fry, trumpeter Scott Quackenbush, Erin Lano on horn, and trumpeter Amy McCabe (who is in “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band). They will play concerts in Houghton, Iron Mountain and Marquette.

To some opera-goers, the chief attraction, even greater than the spectacle of grand opera, is the well-trained opera voice. Opera singers are very seldom miked, yet can fill the hall with gorgeous sound and can communicate a full range of emotions. How do they do it?

You can get a glimpse into this mystery on July 1 at Portage Lake United Church in Houghton when Luretta Bybee (see page 6) will give a Voice Master Class. Her students will be the Resident Opera Artists with whom she will sing in A Little Night Music two weeks later. Come and see great artistry in the making!

The Festival presented its 2011 Laura Jean Deming Award to John and Pauline Kiltinen of Marquette for their roles in the commissioning and premiere production of Rockland.

It was John Kiltinen who first brought the idea of Rockland to the Festival, following a discussion with the Finnish composer Jukka Linkola in 2005. Linkola was in Marquette for the premiere of his double bass concerto featuring Evan Premo, performed at Finn Grand Fest. When Linkola heard the story of the 1906 events in the town of Rockland, Ontonagon County, he said, “I’d like to write an opera about that.” Kiltinen then told the Board of PMMF about it, and in due course the Board formally adopted the project.

The award was presented last June at a concert in Marquette. In his presentation remarks, Peter Van Pelt, Executive Director, praised the Kiltinens for their role in creating Rockland and championing its development over the past several years, and for their generous financial support, and said “No recipient of this award could possibly be more deserving.”

The Laura Jean Deming Award, named for the founder of Pine Mountain Music Festival, is given annually to an individual or group that has rendered outstanding service to the Festival.

There will be charter buses from Marquette and Iron Mountain/Kingsford to the Sunday, July 15 matinee performance of A Little Night Music at the Rozsa Center in Houghton. To sign up or get more information about the Marquette bus, call Marquette Country Tours at 906-226-6167, or for the Iron Mountain/Kingsford bus call Mary Lou Blomquist at 906-774-8285.

The Friday, July 13 performance of A Little Night Music is part of a three-day sightseeing tour that will originate in Marinette, Wisconsin and will pick up tour passengers in Iron Mountain. Call Westlund Bus Line at 715-732-0238 for information or to sign up.
PETER VAN PELT AND THE FESTIVAL

Peter Van Pelt has retired as Executive Director. Ever since he joined the Board of Trustees in 1999, his history and the Festival’s history have been intertwined. He has served as trustee, vice president, president, chair of the Management Committee, and Executive Director. In 1999 he was asked by then-Executive Director Kathy Tompkins to facilitate a strategic planning session for the Board, and that in turn led to an invitation to join the Board.

When Laura Jean Deming, the founder of the Festival, retired from the Artistic Director position in 2001, it was to Peter that she addressed her letter of resignation, as he was president at that time. Peter says he felt as though the sky had fallen in. It was Laura Jean’s vision and energy and contagious ability to enlist the participation of others that had created the Festival. And it was she and Kathy Tompkins, Executive Director since 1995, who had brought the Festival to its position of prominence. But he and the other Board members regrouped and demonstrated that the Festival had come of age, as they hired first Christopher Mattaliano and then Joshua Major to provide artistic leadership.

At the end of 2007, the Festival found itself in a financial near-crisis. Some voices were saying perhaps it should close its doors. But Peter saw the situation as merely a bump in the road, and it was partly thanks to him that the Management Committee was set up, thus enlisting the active work of several trustees and avoiding the cost of a paid Executive Director. Since then, the Festival has moved forward toward a position of strength.

The Festival is “a miracle of ambition, idiosyncrasy and geography.”
—Detroit Free Press, 7/4/04

Peter is fond of quoting Detroit Free Press’s comment (7/4/04) that the Festival is “a miracle of ambition, idiosyncrasy and geography.” He says, “Indeed, it is remarkable that the small-town environment of the Upper Peninsula, an area better known for natural beauty and recreation and mining history, can support such a high-quality classical music festival, even including opera.”

As Peter retires, he expresses appreciation for how the Festival has enriched his life and that of his family. “We have met so many talented and wonderful people through the Festival – it has been life-changing. I can only hope that others, be they Board members, volunteers, donors, artists, other supporters and activists, feel the same sense of gratitude that I feel. Pine Mountain Music Festival truly is a wonder, a miracle.”

Visit the Festival website, pmmf.org for more information on the season, the artists, the Festival and the region.
2012 Season Events
All events at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise noted.

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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

NEW STAFF MEMBERS
The Festival welcomed two new staff members in January. Jane De Martini succeeds Angela Irwin as Operations Manager. She administers all contracts with artists and venues; arranges housing for artists; coordinates Resident Opera Artist auditions; coordinates OPERAition Imagination, and in general ensures that the vision and directions of the Artistic Director are carried out.

Eugenia “Jeni” Jobst is part-time Marketing and Development Associate. Jeni is a recent graduate of Michigan Tech. She handles media relations and all marketing activities including press releases, coordinates program ads, oversees the Festival’s website and internet presence, and assists with research into funding sources.

THE PINE MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL “CAST”

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Staff
Joshua Major, Artistic Director
Sandra Lewin, Executive Director
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Eugenia Jobst, Marketing & Development Associate
Laura Jean Deming, Founder and Artistic Director Emerita

PO Box 406 Hancock, MI 49930
(906) 482-1542 • www.pmmf.org
THE FESTIVAL AND YOU – YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Pine Mountain Music Festival exists to deliver superb classical music in venues throughout the western and central Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northeastern Wisconsin. Our programming depends primarily on donations by corporations, foundations and individuals. It is the ongoing generosity of our ardent supporters that helps to offset programming and production costs annually. No performing arts organization can exist on ticket sales alone, and especially an organization that produces opera!

Our programming for 2012, inspired by the success of Rockland, offers a winning mix of new artists as well as long time favorites. It promises to provide the quality performances that you’ve come to expect each year. Yet it’s because of our supporters like you that we are able to deliver that level of quality music. You do make a difference to PMMF!

How can you help?

APPRECIATION FOR GRANTS RECEIVED

Pine Mountain Music Festival has received a $6,000 grant from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for 2012 in support of the Resident Opera Artist program. We express our appreciation to the MCACA and to the state legislators who approved MCACA’s budget. A portion of that grant is a pass-through from the National Endowment for the Arts, and we also appreciate the support from that source.

We are proud to be among the organizations that improve Michigan’s quality of life with the help of such grants.

ADOPT A RESIDENT OPERA ARTIST

You can “Adopt a Resident Opera Artist!” For a full adoption of $3,000 or a shared adoption of $1,000, you receive certain benefits (opera tickets, dinner and rehearsal invitations, and more) and you get to know your adopted singer. Call 906-482-1542 for more information.

The Adoption program has two aims: the more obvious is to attract donations for the benefit of the Festival. But equally important is to foster friendships between the local community and the visiting artists. Many previous adopters and their adoptees have formed lasting friendships.

So take a look at the ROAs on page 4, and sign up for an adoption! It’s a one-way street – you get all the benefits and none of the responsibility!

Please use the remittance slip below to make your tax-deductible donation. Thank you!

If you have made a donation recently, please know that you have the gratitude of the Board and staff, the artists, the concert-goers, and all the U.P. people who appreciate how the Festival enriches our communities.

SUPPORT PINE MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL

To: Pine Mountain Music Festival
    PO Box 406, Hancock MI 49930

Enclosed is my/our donation of $____________________

☐ Check  ☐ VISA or M/C # ________________________ Exp. Date __________ Signature_______________________________

I/We pledge to pay $____________ in ___________ equal installments starting ____________ (must conclude by 9/30/12).

My/Our name(s) ______________________________________________________________________________________

Street________________________________________City_________________________State_________Zip_____________

Telephone ___________________________________Email _____________________________________________________
You can also read this newsletter and other news on the Festival website, www.pmmf.org. For Festival updates as well as local and music news, find us on Twitter and Facebook.

Below you will see our QR (quick response) Code. Your smart phone or other “smart” device can read this code and it will immediately take you to the PMMF website. You will also find our QR code on future brochures, posters and other literature. It is a handy way to lead readers to our website and share information about the Festival.

**ONLINE NEWSLETTER, FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND QR CODE**

**VOLUNTEERS: THE FESTIVAL’S MOST IMPORTANT ASSET**

There are many amazing things about Pine Mountain Music Festival – it is a wonder that the small-town environment of the Upper Peninsula can support a high-quality classical music festival, including opera. Perhaps the most amazing thing of all is the number of people who volunteer their time and energy to help make the Festival happen.

Volunteers do a myriad of useful and necessary things. Over the years, many have organized local fund-raising and publicity events, and many have provided housing for artists and crew. Others put up posters, distribute brochures, usher at events, provide transportation and free-time activities for artists, and sell program ads to local businesses. A faithful volunteer picks up mail every day and processes checks. Others have helped in the office by folding and stuffing letters for mailings. The list of tasks and services is long and varied!

In a typical year, the Festival is helped by over 200 active volunteers. We extend a huge thank you to all our volunteers. There would be no Festival without you.