



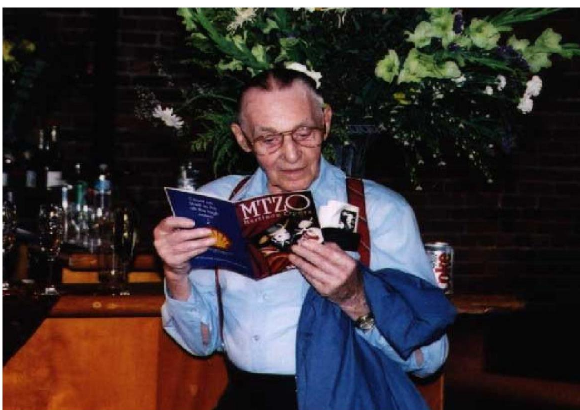
## **MARTINEZ OPERA CONTRA COSTA**

### **2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

*"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it."*

*William A. Ward*

We pleased present to our family of patrons, corporate sponsors and foundations the ***Martinez Opera Contra Costa 2009 Annual Report***. This was an eventful year to share with all who value and support the opera in the city of Martinez. Our efforts in continuing our programming in 2009 have been both rewarding and challenging. We are fortunate to have a strong, determined organization that believes in the long term benefits we bring to our community.



*Martinez Opera Patron*

2009 was a turning point for Martinez Opera Contra Costa. We celebrated the 120 year anniversary of the Martinez Opera Company

with a festive celebration featuring four of our finest artists at the historical Telfer Hall in downtown Martinez.



*"120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration"*

We are proud to acknowledge Professor Walter Bartlett's transformation of the "Martinez Choral Society" into a full time opera company in 1889. This opera company continued to produce operas for nearly 40 years until Professor Bartlett retired in 1927. When Dr. Bartlett passed away at the age of 85, he held two records. One, according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, was for being the longest serving song leader for the Kiwanis

Club in the city of Martinez. The second was for producing the greatest number of amateur operas in the United States in one year.



*Professor Walter Bartlett*

We are privileged to be able to continue Professor Bartlett's legacy to opera. This year, though we did not produce a fully staged opera, we certainly kept opera alive through our many outreach endeavors. The opera company once again emphasized musical excellence and public awareness to the community.

In February we presented "Singers for Seniors", performing for "Love is the Answer" (LITA), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing entertainment for the elderly in convalescent homes across the Bay Area. Our singers performed for persons living in skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities, and retirement residences. Over 300 senior citizens enjoyed a day of love and opera with MTZO.

In February, June and December, we presented "Dine with a Diva". This popular opera series provides a valuable outreach opportunity for the opera. Many guests who have never attended an opera production or performance can enjoy an inexpensive and relaxing event held in a local home. These concerts were graciously hosted by Stuart and Barbara McCullough, Gay and Ken Gerlack and Schultz and Carol Schultz. We featured soprano artists Krista Wigle, Angela Caldalero and Mariana Lipovictz.



*"Dine with a Diva"*

In September MTZO presented opera singers at Martinez's annual "Italian Street Painting Festival". This performance was in partnership with Main Street Martinez and the Martinez Historical Society, other non-profit organizations in our community. It is part of MTZO's mission to contribute to the economic development of our downtown through arts and entertainment. The performance attracted new fans to MTZO.



*Maria and MTZO singers at the Festival*



In October we presented “Papagenos Search for Love”, MTZO’s outreach program for young children under the age of five. Children enrolled in low-income and Head Start daycare centers in Contra Costa County had their first experience of opera, encountering Prince Orlofsky, Papagenno and Princess Pamina from Mozart’s *Magic Flute*, Cinderella, and other characters from classical operas. MTZO’s commitment to underprivileged children provides these young people with a rare introduction to classical music and art, part of our goal of bringing opera to everyone.



Culture for Kids 2009 “Papagenos Search for Love”

Along with other arts organizations, we faced a difficult economic climate in 2009. Still, we continued to provide the city of Martinez with high quality operatic entertainment, introducing over 1,000 audience members to the experience of opera.

This year we are hard at work on our next fully staged opera, “Lucia di Lammermoor”, a dramma tragico (tragic opera) in three acts by Gaetano Donizetti. “Lucia” will be performed in October of 2010 at the Alhambra Performing Arts Center in Martinez.



“Lucia di Lammermoor”

We thank all of the donors, patrons and sponsors in 2009 who made our season possible. We especially thank our very valuable volunteers who have worked hard to make MTZO one of the finest opera companies in Contra Costa County.

We hope you enjoyed reading about MTZO’s accomplishments in 2009. We look forward to seeing you at our next production.

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**MTZO**  
Martinez Opera