Seagle Music Colony once again received support from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2019. The grant of $10,000 was in support of SMC’s production of the opera *The Manchurian Candidate* by Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell - one of the highlights of the 2019 season.

Support from this esteemed national funder helps bring additional clout to the work that Seagle Music Colony is doing in the opera field, and in particular to its focus on cultivation of new or recently premiered operas. *The Manchurian Candidate* was premiered in 2015 by Minnesota Opera. The production at Seagle Music Colony was the East Coast premiere of the work.

Librettist Mark Campbell was in residence for the final rehearsals and first performance to work with the emerging artists, and give them, and our audiences, insight about the opera. He remarked that it was so wonderful to see the opera staged again because it reminded him what a good piece it really is. Our audiences agreed, and we hope our production has helped keep this excellent opera in the repertoire.

**SMC to Produce Another World Premiere Opera in 2020 Season**

As further commitment to cultivation of new operas and expansions of the operatic repertoire, Seagle Music Colony is planning another world premiere opera as part of its 2020 summer season. The premiere of *Harmony* by librettist and novelist Russell Banks and composer Robert Carl follows the world premiere of *Roscoe* by Evan Mack and Joshua McGuire in 2016 and the piano-vocal premiere of *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* by Herschel Garfein in 2017.

The 2020 premiere of *Harmony* follows a decades long development of the opera that was first part New York City Opera’s new work development program nearly fifteen years ago. At that time SMC Artistic Director Darren Woods happened to be in the audience and remembers enjoying the music and being intrigued by the subject matter. After Darren moved to Schroon Lake in 2017, he heard that Russell Banks was an Adirondack resident which jogged his memory of the opera. After reaching out to Banks and Carl, they agreed to complete the opera and have its premiere at SMC.

The subject matter of *Harmony* will have a special resonance for the Adirondack audiences of SMC. Set in Keene, NY in the early 20th century, *Harmony* chronicles the meeting of writer Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) and composer Charles Ives as they spend the summer at the Adirondack summer home of the Twichell family. Ives wishes to propose marriage to Harmony Twichell, his best friend’s sister. Harmony’s father, Rev. Joseph Twichell, disapproves of Ives and asks his longtime friend Twain to communicate with Ives on his behalf, to better understand the young composer’s intentions. Twain’s interrogation does not go well, with dramatic consequences for the young couple. The story is based on actual events that connect these two famous American artists, and familiar Adirondack references pepper the libretto.

*Harmony* was given a full reading during the fall of 2019 as part of SMC’s American Center for New Works Development. The world premiere will take place as the third show of SMC’s 2020 season (see back page for dates).

**SMC Receives Fourth NEA Grant**

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The final scene from *The Manchurian Candidate*. 2019 Emerging Artists Nicholas Dankner (left),
The 2020 summer season at Seagle Music Colony will mark the 25th for General Director Tony Kostecki and Artistic Director Darren Woods. Since their first summer in 1996, much has changed at the Colony both in the program and the campus infrastructure, but much has also remained the same.

In Darren’s time as General and Artistic Director, the Colony program grew from three productions over five weeks to six over nine weeks, and the Shames Rehearsal Hall and two men’s dormitories were constructed. Since Tony took the full-time helm in 2008, the program expanded again to include a seven week fall program, two more full-time employees were hired (including Darren in 2017), and the Colony constructed a nine-bedroom faculty housing building.

To support all this growth, the Seagle Music Colony budget has grown from under $100,000 to around $800,000 in the last 25 years. Despite all these changes, many things at Seagle Music Colony remain the same—the quality of the program and the training that is given to the talented emerging artists has been consistent, though expanded. Many of the campus buildings, though lovingly maintained as well as possible, continue to age and are in constant need of repair—a well-known challenge to anyone who owns or maintains a 100+ year-old building (or 100 year old anything for that matter.)

Also consistent over the past 25 years is the vigorous support of the Seagle Music Colony family of donors and sponsors that remain committed to the mission and programs of the Colony. As Darren and Tony continue their work, this ongoing support will remain critical. Thank you for being a Seagle Music Colony family member through your support!

Spotlight on Emerging Artist Alumni

Each year your gifts help support the program that attracts exceptionally talented emerging artists to Seagle Music Colony. In this and subsequent issues of High Notes we spotlight alumni who are achieving success in their chosen fields.

Michaela Wolz, mezzo-soprano

Michaela Wolz was one of the five 2019 winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, held on the stage of the Met in March 2019. This prestigious win is a far cry from her time spent here in Schroon Lake. While an artist at Seagle Music Colony in the summer of 2016, Michaela appeared as the Giant’s Wife in Jack in the Beanstalk and Mrs. Squires in The Music Man.

During the intervening years, Michaela completed her BM and MM at Boston Conservatory at Berklee where she sang a wide variety of roles including Dorabella in Cosi fan tutte, Cherubino in The Marriage of Figaro, Presendia in Dark Sisters, Mother Marie in Dialogues of the Carmelites, and Sister Helen Prejean in Dead Man Walking. Michaela has also been a member of both the Gerdine Young Artist and Gaddes Festival Artist programs at Opera Theater of Saint Louis. She covered Annio in Titus and Private Stanton in An American Soldier, and during the 2019 season sang the role of Amore in The Coronation of Poppea.

Michaela recently relocated to New York after completing her studies in Boston. Upcoming engagements include a return to Opera Theatre of St. Louis for their Opera on the Go performances of La Cenerentola, participation the annual Sullivan Awards, as well as being a part of the Seagle Music Colony Emerging Artists recital at Opera America next April (see News Notes on next page). You can follow Michaela and her exciting career at www.michaelawolzmezzo.com.

SFC Leadership Celebrates

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Seagle Music Colony Legacy Society

We hope you will consider continuing your support of Seagle Music Colony by making provisions in your estate plan. Talk with your financial advisor about how a charitable gifting program can provide valuable tax benefits, potentially increase your income now, and help not-for-profit organizations you care about like Seagle Music Colony. For more information, please contact Darren Woods at (518) 532-7875 or darren@seaglecolony.org.
IN 2019:

SMC Well Represented at Opera America New Works Forum
Each year, Opera America, the national service organization for opera, holds a forum in New York City devoted to trends and happenings in the new opera field. In January 2019, Darren Woods and Tony Kostecki attended the forum representing SMC, and two new operas workshopped as part of the American Center for New Works Development at SMC were featured performances as part of the forum: The Ghosts of Gatsby by Evan Mack and Joshua McGuire and The Falling and the Rising by Zach Redler and Jerre Dye.

SMC Gala hits yet another record
The 2019 25th anniversary Seagle Music Colony Gala honored the founders of the Gala - Tom Grogan, Irma Worrell-Fisher, Sharon Harder and Dodie Seagle - as well as SMC Alumna Eryn LeCroy who is currently playing Christine in The Phantom of the Opera on Broadway. The 196 Guests, plus SMC staff and artists, had an incredible evening and helped raise a record $103,000 in support of SMC operations.

SMC Patrons experience Glimmerglass
Fifty-four people traveled by tour bus to the Glimmerglass Festival production of Showboat on Saturday, August 24, 2019. After a bountiful lunch buffet at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown, the group enjoyed the sold-out performance of Kern’s famous musical featuring SMC Alumnus Michael Adams in the leading role of Gaylord Ravenal. A quick meet-and-greet with Michael took place before the return trip to Schroon Lake.

IN 2020:

SMC Artists To Be Featured in New York City Recital
A recital featuring recent Seagle Music Colony emerging artists will be a part of the 2019-2020 season of Opera America Onstage. The concert takes place Saturday, April 25, 2020 beginning at 7:00 pm in Scorca Hall at the National Opera Center, 330 Seventh Avenue in New York City. If you will be in the NYC area in April, stay tuned for more details about attending.
2020 105th Annual Seagle Music Colony Season

Old Friends and New - June 27
Die Fledermaus - J. Strauss - July 8-11
The Three Bears - Stinson (children’s opera) - July 11
Cinderella (Cendrillon) - Massenet - July 22-25
Harmony - World Premiere - Carl/Banks - August 5-8
Vespers Concerts - August 16, 23
Hello, Dolly! - Herman - August 19-22

2020 Season & Group tickets go on sale January 1, 2020 and single tickets April 1, 2020.
Find more details about the season at seaglecolony.org