

## Divas on the Delaware Application Form

Applications may be submitted online or by mail to:  
Eric Barsness, DOTD Executive Director  
Box 585 Jeffersonville, NY 12748

Please include or attach **resume and photo**. Audition may be submitted online or by high quality tape or cd. Please include two contrasting arias. Live auditions may be scheduled in New York City or Narrowsburg, NY by calling (845) 887-5974. **Application deadline is April 1, 2009**. After this deadline applications may be accepted only if additional space remains in the Program.

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Email:

Phone:

Cell:

Voice type:

Age:

Grade level (if applicable):

1. Summary of vocal training background and performing experience (if any):

2. Participation status: ( ) Resident (\$1230), ( ) Commuter (\$600)

3. Are you interested in receiving scholarship assistance consideration?

( ) yes, ( ) no

4. Check here if interested in College credit through SCCC-SUNY: ( )

5. Do you expect to have a car with you during the Program?

( ) yes, ( ) no

For more Program information, please contact DOTD Executive Director Eric Barsness at 845-887-5974, e-mail [barsnesseric@gmail.com](mailto:barsnesseric@gmail.com) or by mail at Box 585, Jeffersonville, NY 12748.

# ***DIVAS ON THE DELAWARE 2009***

## **Delaware Valley Opera's Residency Program**

**In Collaboration with SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SUNY**

*Divas on the Delaware* (DOTD), the DVO Residency Program, is designed to further the musical and performance skills of professional singers and talented pre-professionals. The program for singers, male and female, from high school through post-graduate levels, emphasizes performance opportunities and integrates classes in vocal techniques and interpretation, drama, stage movement and choreography, and production techniques. In addition to developing skills essential to the singers' musicianship and stagecraft, the program will offer workshops in aspects of career development, from recital and rehearsal preparation to effective techniques for working successfully with directors, conductors and colleagues. Participants will also have the opportunity to identify individual training objectives and work one-on-one or in small groups with a mentor in areas such as music theory, sight singing or Italian language and diction.

All participants will perform in the 2009 Delaware Valley Opera summer season as soloists or ensemble cast members in *Divas on the Delaware*, an inventively staged program of opera scenes and Menotti's complete one-act *The Old Maid and the Thief* (double cast). The inaugural 2008 *Divas* performances drew large audiences and critical praise for the "magic being played out on the stage" and the "convincing stage presence and dramatic intensity of voice" of the singers (Time Herald-Record). Residency participants also perform principal or secondary roles (for very advanced singers) and/or in the DVO Choral Ensemble in the DVO's fully staged productions of *La Bohème* and *The Merry Widow*.

**Program Duration:** 6 weeks, July 6 - Aug. 16 The program schedule includes three weeks of intensive afternoon and evening workshops, master classes and rehearsals, and three weeks of performances in Sullivan County (NY) and Wayne County (PA). Mornings and some weekends are free, allowing participants to enjoy the beautiful Catskill mountain setting.

**Location:** classes, most rehearsals and some performances will be held at Sullivan County Community College (SCCC) in Loch Sheldrake, NY. Additional classes will take place at Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, NY, including open rehearsals and seminars with participants from an Elderhostel program, "Inside the DVO." Other performances will be in the Tusten Theatre in Narrowsburg, NY, the Ritz Theater in Hawley, PA and other locations to be determined.

**Training staff:** (see biographies below)

*Dr. Jim Blanton*, DVO Artistic Director - directing, coaching, master classes *Nico and Carol Castel* - master classes (voice, diction and stage craft) *Eric Barsness* - stage movement and choreography *Carol Diefenbach* - drama coaching *Julie Ziavras* - vocal coaching and master classes

**Cost to participants:** Commuters: \$600, Residents (SCCC campus): \$1230 (Meals not included)

**Scholarships:** Partial or full scholarships will be offered to outstanding participants.

**Auditions:** Can be scheduled live in New York City and Narrowsburg, NY, or by high quality cd, tape or online recording. Two contrasting arias, resume and application are requested (application below).

**College Credit:** can be arranged through the Sullivan County Community College at a modest additional fee, per 3-hour or 6-hour course credit.

For 23 seasons, the **Delaware Valley Opera** has been presenting professional opera productions in the charming and intimate Tusten Theatre in Narrowsburg, New York, in Sullivan County Community College's Seelig Theatre and other locations. Main stage productions are accompanied by the **Delaware Valley Chamber Orchestra** and the DVO Choral Ensemble, with creative use of sets and costuming. Programs also include productions showcasing emerging young singers and in-school workshops and performances. **Sullivan County Community College** is a two-year community college and a part of the State University of New York (SUNY). For more SCCC information, visit the "Your Community, Your College" website at HYPERLINK "http://www.sullivan.suny.edu" [www.sullivan.suny.edu](http://www.sullivan.suny.edu)

*For more Program information, please contact DOTD Executive Director Eric Barsness at 845-887-5974, e-mail to [barsnesseric@gmail.com](mailto:barsnesseric@gmail.com) or by mail at Box 585, Jeffersonville, NY 12748.*

### **Divas on the Delaware Residency Training Staff**

**Dr. Jim Blanton** has led a multifaceted career as conductor, musical director, stage director, singer and pianist. He is currently Musical Director for the Delaware Valley Opera and Delaware Valley Chamber Orchestra. He has also been Conductor for New York's acclaimed Goliard Chamber Orchestra and Chorale, Musical Director for the Tri State Actors Theater, Director of the Warwick Music Festival and creator and Director of the *KidsClassics* concert series. He has given vocal master classes and seminars throughout the U.S. in over forty universities, colleges and art centers. As a singer, Blanton has appeared as soloist with the Brooklyn Philharmonic, St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, Greenwich Symphony Orchestra and has performed leading roles with the Center for Contemporary Opera, American Chamber Opera, Whitewater Opera (IN), Sorg Opera (OH), Queens Opera, N.J. State Repertory Opera and at the Banff, Blossom and Birmingham City Stages Festivals.

**Nico Castel**, one of the world's pre-eminent character operatic tenors with over 200 roles in his repertoire, recently celebrated his 35th year with the Metropolitan Opera Company, including 26 years as staff diction coach. He is on the staff of the Juilliard School and travels to conduct master classes and teach at a number of prominent music schools, universities and opera companies. He is the author of the authoritative phonetic translations of the major operas, the *Complete Operatic Translation Series*, now with 17 volumes.

**Carol Castel** combines her experience as stage director, vocal coach and teacher to help singers realize their highest potential as dramatic artists. She is General Manager of the New York Opera Studio, a new "open conservatory", offering classes taught by opera professionals and a summer intensive program at Vassar College. For the past five years, she has taught and directed productions at Opera NUOVA in Edmonton, Canada. Ms. Castel was Artistic Director of the Delaware Valley Opera Company for nine years. She has authored several opera education programs for children. She has a voice studio in New York and teaches classes and workshops on "Acting, Artistry and the Creative Process for Singers" throughout the world for young singers and professionals alike.

**Eric Barsness'** dance/theater works have been performed to audience and critical acclaim across the U.S. and Europe. As a founding choreographer of ODC/San Francisco and Artistic Director of his own New York City-based company, he received numerous NEA choreography fellowships as well as grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and from numerous private foundations. His early music training in New York and at Oberlin Conservatory informed his dance works, which included a series of tragicomic solos about an opera fanatic. The success of these works led to repeated tours of Italy, where he performed to rave reviews. Since shifting

his performing focus to vocal work, Eric's dance background has in turn had a strong effect on his approach as a singer. From instilling the basics of physical warm-up to teaching fundamental dance forms such as the Waltz and Minuet, his workshops orient young singers to the physical demands of the opera stage.

**Carol Hoehn Diefenbach**, mezzo soprano, is a founding member of the Delaware Valley Opera, where she has performed over 18 leading roles in 21 seasons. She was in the original cast of *Diamond Studs* on Broadway and with their National Tour, and has extensive training and experience in theater arts. She has worked with such celebrated actors as Jose Ferrer, Colleen Dewhurst, Kathy Bates and Woody Allen, and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and Actor's Equity Association. Ms. Diefenbach is recognized in the Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. and is in the silver edition of *Who's Who of American Women*. She is a private vocal instructor associated with the Vocal Arts Foundation in New York City.

**Julie Zavras**, soprano, has performed in concert, on radio and TV in the US and abroad, including on Greek National Radio, Serbian National Radio and Television, the Fiesta Internacional de las Naciones in Venezuela, at the Piraeus National Theatre and on tour in Serbia and Greece. Recently heard in the title role of *La Perichole* and as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with the DVO, she has appeared with the Opera Company of the Highlands, Festival Theatre of NY, at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space and many other venues throughout the NY metropolitan area. She has premiered many works written for her, including songs, an off-Broadway musical and an opera based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's play, *Babylon Revisited*. She holds a BM and MM from the Manhattan School of Music and has coached privately with several Metropolitan Opera conductors including George Schick and Alberta Masiello.

**John Yaffé**, Guest Conductor, brings his vast experience to DVO, having worked for many years with Encompass New Opera Theatre in New York City, ten years as conductor in the German opera houses of Hagen, Münster, Osnabrück and Stuttgart, and with orchestras in Remscheid, Konstanz, Munich, and Stuttgart. A resident of New York City, Mr. Yaffé frequently conducts in New York City at the 92nd Street Y, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center, among other venues. In recent seasons, he has led a series of premiere performances for Carnegie Hall, the Colorado Springs Symphony, the Staten Island Symphony, the Warsaw Philharmonic (Warsaw Autumn Contemporary Music Festival), Tanglewood, just to name a few.