



NEW WORKS • NEW AUDIENCES

# ARDEA ARTS

explode all expectations

THE HOME OF **FAMILY OPERA INITIATIVE**

# NEWSLETTER

## Letter from our Founding Artistic Director



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

April 28<sup>th</sup>: **BOUNCE: An Opera in 4 Quarters**, came into being with our first team meeting: **Daniel Bernard Roumain** (DBR) on Music, **Charles R Smith** on Story & Libretto, **Torrie Allen** as Producer, **Chidi Ozieh** on Media, and yours truly Directing both the project and on the court! Stay tuned for more news in the Summer newsletter.

May 1<sup>st</sup>: One year and two weeks in the making, across borders, languages, continents and cultures, **The Three Astronauts** opera has its libretto! What governments find impossible, our artists found simulating, inspiring, and fun. Bravo **Daniel L Everett**, **Dmitry Glukhovsky**, **Liu Sola**, and **Yusef Komunyakaa**. Now being translated into Chinese and Russian, the libretto will soon be in the hands of **Ye Xiaogang** (China) and **Alexander Tchaykovskiy** (Russia), ready to spin their musical magic. Next up - to uncover the American Composer!

May 14<sup>th</sup>: I reconvene in Milan with **Eugenio Carmi**, the creator of the delicate yet vibrant collages that bring this book - and opera - to life: **I Tre Cosmonauti**. The opening of his exhibition at Kasa Dei Libri, will show the world the art work of three collaborative book projects Eugenio has made with revered author, **Umberto Eco**. Hoping we might be able to bring this to New York.

May 18<sup>th</sup>: Ardea Arts music director and composer **David Wolfson** and I meet up with **Dan Everett** in Bentley Massachusetts - the first step in transcribing a Martian language onto the musical staff. A language so tonal that we predict we will not need a Martian composer!!

A welcome to new staff member **Michelle Eliza**. Michelle will be project manager of BOUNCE, as well as assist with day to day administration. We expect this bright young dynamo to bring fresh ideas to the table.

July 9<sup>th</sup>: Thank you all for your continuing support, I look forward to continuing our collaborations and discussions. Board Member **Ibiayi Briggs** chairs our SUMMER OPERA & COCKTAILS - JULY 9<sup>th</sup> in NYC. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!!

Happy Spring,

# **BOUNCE BACK INTO SPRING!**

## **THE THREE ASTRONAUTS - AWARDED NEA GRANT**



# NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Ardea Arts has received the National Endowment for the Arts Grant to fund our daring and unique project [The Three Astronauts](#). We would like to give a special thank you to our congressional representative [Jerrold Nadler](#), and to our New York senators [Charles Schumer](#) and [Kirsten Gillibrand](#) for their continuing support.

For more information about The Three Astronauts or to be part of this project, visit us at [www.thethreeastronauts.com](http://www.thethreeastronauts.com)

## **BOUNCE: AN OPERA IN 4 QUARTERS**



Ardea Arts is proud to announce our latest project, Bounce: An Opera in 4 Quarters. Bounce has brought on composer [Daniel Bernard Roumain](#), libretto by author [Charles R Smith Jr](#), producing director [Torrie Allen](#) of Alaska Public Media, and concept by [Grethe Barrett Holby](#) to bring opera where it has never gone before. This piece will show how players find themselves being able to express themselves on the court better than words ever could. The score itself will be motivic, expressive, and electric, drawing in new audiences that otherwise may not familiarize themselves with opera. This project expects to bring interactive theater to a distinct level of intimacy by incorporating members of the community, including local high school basketball teams and cheerleading squads.

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## **BABAR AT FIAF**



On February 8th, Family Opera Initiative and the French Institute Alliance Francaise (FIAF) produced Francis Poulenc's timeless composition, [The Story of Babar](#).

Babar featured Mikhail Hallak as Poulenc, Amelia Watkins as the Narrator, and dancers Juliette Carbonnier, Steven Truman Gray, Ellen Smith Ahern, Lucie Baker, Leslie Cuyjet, Petra van Noort, and Javier Perez. With choreography by **Jane Comfort** and under the direction of **Grethe Barrett Holby**, this classic and whimsical story was brought to life, touching the hearts of kids of all ages. One parent said his daughter was, "transfixed for the entire show, which does not happen often for a three-year-old."

In addition to a performance for families, Babar gave a second performance to schools in the surrounding area.



## **Join Ardea in Milan!**

### **Exhibition of Children's Fables by Eugenio Carmi and**

## Umberto Eco

### CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF AOP

As the founder of American Opera Projects, I am honored to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of AOP. Over the last 25 years, AOP has performed internationally, presenting the latest works by rising and established composers. Along with our performances in prestigious venues such as London's Royal Opera House, the Guggenheim Museum, and the Lincoln Center Festival, AOP has also put on outdoor performances throughout New York City, courtesy of the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation. AOP will be holding a gala and performance on May 12. There will be a cocktail hour and auction at 6:30, followed by Opera Sings Broadway Sings Opera, honoring Stephen Schwartz. I would like to express my deepest gratitude and thank you all for your support for these last 25 years, and I look forward to many more years of spectacular new music from the American Opera Projects.

### Introducing Michelle!

Welcome Ardea Arts's Administrative Assistant, Michelle Eliza! Michelle is a native of Washington DC, and graduate of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She made the move to New York two years ago and since then has worked with the Martina Arroyo Foundation and Empire Opera. She also has started playing with a newly formed funk-rock band in Brooklyn.

Michelle is a proud parent of a cat named Mingus and also an avid reader, with Kurt Vonnegut being one of her favorite authors. She enjoys spending her evenings entrenched in Brooklyn's local music scene, and spending her time off in the summer at Rockaway Beach.

### Support Our Works

Ardea Arts is committed to bringing together new audiences from diverse backgrounds and making opera accessible to all. Be part of the driving force that makes it possible to bring the universal language of music and theater to a more diverse audience. Support us now, before the end of our fiscal year.

Take a leadership role and join our Board! We are currently seeking new members for our Board of Directors. For more information visit us at [www.ardeaarts.com](http://www.ardeaarts.com)

**You can be a VIP donor! Please support our work before June 30th!**

[Donate](#)

Thank you!

Come join us this week for an exhibition of children's books by illustrator **Eugenio Carmi** and author **Umberto Eco**. The exhibition will be taking place Wednesday, May 14 at 6 PM at the Kasa Dei Libri in Milan. Carmi and Eco's book *The Three Astronauts* is also being re-released in collaboration with the opera of the same name, currently being produced by Ardea Arts.

## L'ECO DELLE FAVOLE

Tre racconti per bambini di Umberto Eco  
illustrati da Eugenio Carmi



Inaugurazione mercoledì 14 maggio 2014, ore 18.00  
**KASA DEI LIBRI**, Milano, Largo De Benedetti 4  
Dal 15 al 30 maggio, dal lunedì al venerdì 15.00 -19.00



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