

BY SO-CHUNG SHINN



Above and below: Hostess von Stade in recital; Arctic adventurers Charles and Sandy Cossé



Clockwise from above: Bel canto specialist Genaux makes a film cameo; Brownlee celebrates a banner year; all-star moms (left to right) Steele, Katz, Fleming. National Mother's Day Council chairperson Thia Breen, Brown, Scotto and Rivera.



1. On August 12, **FREDERICA VON STADE** will host **THE 50th ANNIVERSARY ARIAS GALA CONCERT**, a reunion recital for **SANTA FE OPERA's** Apprentice Singer Program. The event is scheduled to include performances by former apprentices such as **BETH CLAYTON, JOYCE DIDONATO, WILLIAM BURDEN, SUSANNA PHILLIPS, MARK S. DOSS** and **HYUNG YUN**. Tickets are available at www.santafeopera.org.

2. On August 19, **SEATTLE OPERA** will hold its first **INTERNATIONAL WAGNER COMPETITION**. Eight finalists and two alternates will compete for two prizes of \$15,000 each in a performance with full orchestra conducted by **ASCHER FISCH**. For tickets, visit www.seattleopera.com. Earlier this season, in April, Seattle trustee Charles B. Cossé proudly planted the company's flag at the North Pole, after which he called general director **SPEIGHT JENKINS** to announce, "Seattle Opera is on top of the world." The durable nylon flag, created by the company's costume shop specifically for this trip, will be preserved in the house archives.

THE SULLIVAN FOUNDATION is accepting applications for its 2006 auditions, to be held in New York, November 6-8. Winners will receive \$7,500 each for career-related expenses. For more information, log on to www.sullivanfoundation.org.

3. Forthcoming thriller *Fracture* (New Line/Castle Rock) will include a cameo appearance by Alaskan mezzo-soprano **VIVICA GENAUX**. In the film, which stars Ryan Gosling and Anthony Hopkins, Genaux performs an excerpt of "Ombra fedel anch'io," from Broschi's *Isolpe*, at a recital attended by two of the movie's characters. Look for *Fracture* in early 2007. Genaux also makes her **NEW YORK CITY OPERA** debut as Juno in Handel's *Semele* this September. Tickets are available at www.nycopera.com.

4. Thirty-three-year-old tenor **LAWRENCE BROWNLEE**, who makes his Met debut in April 2007 as Count Almaviva in the new *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, has won the **2006 RICHARD TUCKER AWARD** along with its cash prize of \$30,000. Brownlee was also named the winner of the **2006 MARIAN ANDERSON AWARD**. Upcoming engagements include Lindoro in *L'italiana in Algeri* with Seattle Opera this October (www.seattleopera.com) and Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola* with Opera Company of Philadelphia in November (www.operaphilly.com).

GEORGE HUME has been named president-elect of **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA**. He will replace **KARL O. MILLS**, who ends his four-year term on August 1.

5. Soprano **RENÉE FLEMING** was among those honored for exemplary parenting by the **NATIONAL MOTHER'S DAY COUNCIL** at The Pierre Hotel in New York on May 4. Other honorees were beauty innovator and CEO Bobbi Brown, fashion designer Betsey Johnson, Karen Katz, president and CEO of Neiman Marcus Group, Broadway legend Chita Rivera, and **MAD (Make a Difference)** founder Cindi Steele. News anchor Rosanna Scotto served as mistress of ceremonies.