

Arts & Entertainment

Songs Of John, Abigail Adams At Adams Historical Park June 21

New York City based Chelsea Opera, in cooperation with the Adams National Historical Park, will present a free performance of the Gary S. Fagin/Terry Quinn opera, "A Distant Love: Songs of John and Abigail Adams" at the Adams National Historical Park in Quincy on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21 at 2 p.m.

The performance will take place in The Carriage House behind Old House at 135 Adams St. For more information, call 212-260-1796 or visit ChelseaOpera.org.

The performance features soprano Victoria Tralongo and baritone Robert Taylor portraying the iconic roles of Abigail Adams and John Adams. The opera is scored for string quartet. The production has been funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts - Art Works program, and by friends of Chelsea Opera who have matched the \$12,500 grant, dollar-for-dollar.

Drawn from letters exchanged between John and Abigail Adams, the first part of the work, "A Song for Abigail," concerns John Adams' work in Amsterdam to acquire loans from the Dutch to support the Revolution, already well underway. The second half, "A Song for John," chronicles Abigail Adams' struggle



"A DISTANT LOVE: Songs of John and Abigail Adams" featuring soprano Victoria Tralongo (left) and baritone Robert Taylor will take place at The Carriage House behind the Old House, Adams National Historical Park, 135 Adams St., Quincy, on Father's Day, June 21 at 2 p.m.

to maintain her family and their farm while a revolutionary war was fought right on their doorstep.

Married for only 10 years, John Adams left Abigail and their three young children behind in Old Braintree (now Quincy) for Philadelphia in 1774 to participate in the greatest political experiment known until that time, the severing of the American colonies from Great Britain to become an independent nation. Little did they realize that John would spend nearly three decades away from his beloved family and farm, during which time he served as Massachusetts's representative to the Continental Congress, a representative to draft the Massachusetts state consti-

tution, a commissioner to Great Britain, France and the Netherlands, the nation's first Vice-President and its second President.

During those same years, Abigail was left alone to raise her children and keep the farm going, and in doing so survived a war, inflation, and a small pox epidemic. With only occasional reunions lasting a few weeks or months, it was their incredible correspondence that sustained them both, and which has been preserved and handed down as a testament to their love for each other and their mutual determination to see the birth of an independent nation. These letters were the inspiration for "A Distant Love: Songs of John and Abigail Adams."

A Distant Love received its Manhattan premiere from Chelsea Opera in 2013. In the audience, Caroline Keinath, Acting Deputy Superintendent of the Adams National Historical Park, who had driven all

the way from Quincy to see the performance enjoyed it so much that on the spot,

she invited Chelsea Opera to perform at the ANHP site. Keinath later wrote, "The words of John and Abigail Adams are poetic and the singers' voices captured the strength and emotion of every word. I appreciate that a specific time and place was chosen, especially a period that carried such importance in the young nation's history and the experiences and sacrifices of two of the most important patriots of their time. The performance of the Chelsea Opera String Quartet was absolutely elegant. The selection of a string quartet for this period was genius."

Co-producers Leonarda Priore and Lynne Hayden-Findlay love history as much as they love opera.

"We believe in the power music has to transform a person. Layer onto that the incredible story presented through the words of John and Abigail Adams, and you have an exceptional hour of theater. We are so excited to be given this special opportunity to take A Distant Love 'home' to Quincy."

Art Works grants support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and enhancement of the livability of communities through the arts. For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, visit the NEA website at arts.gov.

Friends Of Blue Hills Green Up May 31

All are invited to join the Friends of the Blue Hills for a spring festival of stewardship and fun.

The annual Green Up will be held on Sunday, May 31, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Ponkapoag AMC Cabins. Volunteers will enjoy music, food, face painting, crafts and a scavenger hunt while helping with an essential task: pulling up invasive weeds that threaten the Blue Hills.

Meg McMullen is a history teacher and the Community Service Coordinator for Quincy High School. Last year, McMullen recruited nearly 20 students to participate in Green Up. At this year's Quincy High Community Service Fair, McMullen was again encouraging her students to volunteer for the annual event, and 27 signed up to do so.

Many plants look alike for most of the visitors to the 7,000 acre Blue Hills reservation, yet many of the plants that have expanded in recent years are not native to the park and threaten to crowd out naturally occurring species. Vigorous weeding during the warmer months helps maintain a healthy balance in the for-



MEG McMULLEN (left) with Luma Dos Santos recruits students at Quincy High School Community Service Fair for the Friends of the Blue Hills annual Green Up May 31.

est.

Volunteers should park at Temple Beth David, 1060 Randolph St., in Canton. It is a short, scenic walk to the cabins. The event is rain or shine, and while some gloves will be available for weeding, volunteers are encouraged to bring their own gardening gloves if they have them. RSVP to Green-

up@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org or 617-696-8248.

Friends of the Blue Hills was founded in 1979 and has been working for over 35 years to protect the Blue Hills Reservation's beauty, natural habitats, and recreational opportunities. For more information, visit www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org.

Rahmy Eltourey Receives Nazareth College Award

Rahmy Eltourey of Quincy was recently received an award in music from Nazareth College in Rochester, NY.

Eltourey received a Wind Instrumental Conducting Award from the College's Department of Music.

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QATV

Quincy Access Television
 88 Washington Street
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Public Access Channel 8	Government Access Channel 11
<p>Thursday, May 14 6:00pm: Vietnam Veterans Day 8:30pm: QHS vs. NQHS Boys Volleyball</p> <p>Friday, May 15 6:00am: LIVE: AM Quincy (audio only) 11:30am: LIVE: Currently in Quincy</p> <p>Saturday, May 16 12:00pm: All Friends Cabaret 1:00pm: What's New in the Q</p> <p>Sunday, May 17 7:30pm: Vietnam Veterans Day 10:00pm: The Constitution: Then & Now</p> <p>Monday, May 18 11:30am: LIVE: Currently in Quincy 7:00pm: LIVE: Eye on Quincy</p> <p>Tuesday, May 19 7:30pm: Quincy in Focus 8pm: Rev. Rebecca Froom at UFPC</p> <p>Wednesday, May 20 6:00pm: Good News 9:30pm: Sound Advice with Tom Williams</p>	<p>Thursday, May 14 12:00pm: City Council Finance 5/11 5:30pm: Quincy in Focus 7:00pm: GRD: Middle School BB Championship</p> <p>Friday, May 15 6:00pm: City View with Mayor Koch 8:00pm: QRD: High School BB Championship</p> <p>Saturday/Sunday, May 16/17 9:00am: City View with Mayor Koch 11:00am: At Your Library: May Happenings 12:00pm: City Council Finance 5/11 3:30pm: Vietnam Veterans Day 7:00pm: City Council Finance 5/11</p> <p>Monday, May 18 6:30pm: LIVE: City Council Finance</p> <p>Tuesday, May 19 12:00pm: City Council Finance 5/18 7:30pm: State View with Senator Keenan 8:00pm: Vietnam Veterans Day</p> <p>Wednesday, May 20 6:30pm: FYI:QHD Tanning 7:00pm: City Council Finance 5/18</p>

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