

VISTAS

Lifelong Learning

A Nonprofit Education Corporation
P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228
(805)967-6030

Web: vistaslifelonglearning.org

Email: vistas@silcom.com

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO DECONSTRUCTED

Presented by:

Dr. Robert W. Weinman

Tuesday, March 20

1:30-4:30pm

Valle Verde Auditorium

900 Calle de los Amigos

The 1786 première of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* was a milestone in the history of opera. Never before had a composer endowed his characters with such humanity. Never before had ensembles been created which enabled groups of singers to express their feelings together in a way that is both individual and harmonious.

The première almost never took place, because the play on which the opera was based was forbidden, because, according to Napoleon himself, it was responsible for the French Revolution! But then, as Figaro said, "What you can't speak in public you can sing!"

The lecture will begin with the man who created Figaro, Pierre Caron de Beaumarchais, He actually wrote plays almost as a hobby. His career as diplomat, inventor, court favorite, intriguer, businessman, arms merchant, spy was always at the edge of allowable. His love of women and his debts led him to prison several times.



Beaumarchais' Figaro plays are to this day often performed but they are most famous as the inspiration they gave to composers.

Next we will talk about the second of the three men who contributed to the opera. Lorenzo da Ponte had a life almost as adventurous as Beaumarchais. He too was always on the edge and after endless problems in Europe wound up teaching Italian at Columbia College in New York City.

ENROLLMENT FORM: MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

VISTAS Members \$15 Non-Members \$22.50

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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**Please enroll by March 14, 2012
Please carpool, if possible**

Mozart's life is a subject in itself and so we will cover only the years surrounding the première of the opera but will also delve into some of Mozart's traits which led him to this subject.

The body of the talk will focus, in some detail, on the opera itself. Through the use of videos from two famous but totally different productions we will cover one scene at a time to explore the genius of the work (both dramatically and musically).

My intent is that the talk be not only of interest intellectually, but that you will end up loving this great work of art as much as I do.



BIOGRAPHY

When he was 12 years old, Bob Weinman's father took him to the old Met on 39th St. to see his first opera. It was Carmen, and, needless to say, he was smitten, and opera has been a part of his life ever since. After studying physics at Cornell and Caltech, his career as a rocket scientist gave him plenty of opportunity to attend hundreds of performances all over the world and to study musicology in his spare time.

VISTAS Winter 2012 Calendar

Seminar/Event	Inclusive Dates	Time	Venue
Documentary Club	Thurs, Feb 16	2:00pm	Maravilla Theater
Health Care Ethics	Mon, Feb 27	9:30-12:30	Valle Verde Social Rm
The Justice Course II	Wed, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25	9:30-12:30	Valle Verde Social Rm
Documentary Film	Thurs, Mar 15	2:00pm	Maravilla Theater
Supreme Court Issues	Mon, Apr 16	9:30-12:30	Goleta Library
Orfeo & Rake's Progress	Tues, Apr 24	1:30-4:30	Valle Verde Theater
Derek Katz	Wed, May 2, 9, 16	TBA	TBA



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