

## 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

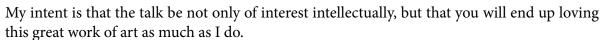
VISTAS Members \$15 Non-Members \$22.50

| Amount Enclosed \$ |      |        |             |  |  |
|--------------------|------|--------|-------------|--|--|
| Name(s):           |      |        |             |  |  |
| Address:           |      |        | <del></del> |  |  |
| Telephone:         | Fax: | Email: |             |  |  |

Mail check to: VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc. P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

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).





## **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.

## *concorrecter contracter contracter*

VISTAS Winter 2012 Calendar

| VISTAS Willter 2012 Caleridar |  |            |                       |  |
|-------------------------------|--|------------|-----------------------|--|
| Seminar/Event                 | <b>Inclusive Dates</b>                         | Time       | Venue                 |  |
| Documentary Club              | Thurs, Feb 16                                  | 2:00pm     | Maravilla Theater     |  |
| <b>Health Care Ethics</b>     | Mon, Feb 27                                    | 9:30-12:30 | Valle Verde Social Rm |  |
| The Justice Course II         | Wed, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28,<br>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 | <b>Goleta Library</b> |  |
| Orfeo & Rake's Progress       | Tues, Apr 24                                   | 1:30-4:30  | Valle Verde Theater   |  |
| Derek Katz                    | Wed, May 2, 9, 16                              | TBA        | TBA                   |  |

No. 22228

Box 23228 Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

If you do not wish to receive
If you do not wish to receive
If you do not wish to receive
Mailings from VISTAS, please let
mailings from Thank you.
us know.