



DONIZETTI'S Three Queens

Presented by: Simon Williams

Wednesdays, February 12, 19, and 26, 2020

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Weinman Hall, Music Academy of the West
 1070 Fairway Road, Santa Barbara

The Italian composer Gaetano Donizetti, an early leader of the Bel Canto opera style in Europe, wrote more than 70 operas, including three about historic queens of Britain's Tudor period—Anne Boleyn (*Anna Bolena*), Mary, Queen of Scots (*Maria Stuarda*), and Elizabeth I (*Roberto Devereux*).

Our course will start with a look at the composer: his life, his background, his prodigious output, and his influence. We will then consider the historical context of the three operas, all set in Tudor times. Next we'll examine the lives of the three remarkable women as historical figures who wielded enormous power and influence in their time.

To enhance our understanding and appreciation of the three queens as well as Donizetti's magnificent music, we will view videos of selections from each of the three operas.



ANNE BOLEYN



MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS



ELIZABETH I

----- Preferred registration deadline*: January 29, 2020 -----

*Early enrollment helps us with our planning; also, those who register by the preferred deadline will be given priority in case of over-enrollment.

Enrollment form: Donizetti's Three Queens

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VISTAS members \$35; non-members \$52.50

- **EITHER pay online** on our website by secure credit card through PayPal*:
<https://www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/current-courses>

*Subject to a 3% processing fee

- **OR mail this form** and your check to: VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc.
 P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara CA 93121

Number of persons _____ \$ _____ Check # _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Of possible interest to course participants: The Los Angeles Opera Company will be presenting six performances of *Roberto Devereux* (which focuses on the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and her relationship with the Earl of Essex) between February 22 and March 14, 2020, at the LA Music Ctr.

Simon Williams, now retired, was a Professor in the Department of Theater and Dance at UCSB for over 30 years. He has published widely in the fields of European continental theatre, the history of acting, Shakespearean performance, and operatic history. In addition, he has contributed numerous articles in his fields of specialty and is also an active reviewer for opera publications. Professor Williams is on the boards of Opera Santa Barbara and The Ensemble Theatre. Last year he presented a memorable VISTAS course titled “Wagner: The Man and the Music.”



VISTAS Calendar — Winter/Spring 2020

Seminar/Event	Inclusive dates	Time	Venue
Vistas Winter Social	Saturday, January 25	2:00 pm	Music Academy of the West
Nonfiction Book Club	2nd Thursday monthly	1:30 pm	Vista del Monte / Sierra Madre Lounge
Documentary Film Club	3rd Thursday monthly	2:00 pm	Maravilla Theater
Lesser-Known Heroes and Rogues II	Weds., Jan. 15, 22, 29	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
All Politics Are Local	Tues., Jan. 21	9:30 am	Covarrubias Adobe / SB Historical Mus.
The Scientific Revolution	Mon., Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17	9:30 am	Bethany Congregational Church
“Things About S.B.’s Past I Never Knew!”	Tues., Feb. 4	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Church
Donizetti’s Three Queens	Wed., Feb. 12, 19, 26	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
Free Speech, Zoning, Constitutional Law	Mon., Feb. 24, March 2, 9	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
SBCC Theatre trip: <i>The Curious Incident</i> ...	Sun., Mar. 1	2:00 pm	SBCC / Garvin Theatre
Annual Short Story Discussion Group	Weds., Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25	1:00 pm	Valle Verde / Social Room
Opera SB trip: <i>Il Postino</i>	Sun., Mar. 8	1:45 pm	Lobero Theatre
Three Important Economic Issues	Tues., Mar. 17, 24, 31	9:30 am	Goleta Library
Spirituals, Dance Bands, and Hot Solos	Wed., Apr. 1, 8, 15	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
“Sounds Good! But Does It Really Work?”	Mon., Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27	9:30 am	Vista del Monte / Sierra Madre Lounge
Opera SB trip: <i>Roméo et Juliette</i>	Sun., May 3	1:45 pm	Lobero Theatre
Let’s Talk Art!	Mon., May 4, 11, 18	9:30 am	Bethany Congregational Church
Accidental Presidents	Weds., May 13, 20	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Church