

Students and Faculty IN THE NEWS

March 2010: PCAD's AMTA Artistic Director, David A. Blair and YAB Graduate Anna Wassman perform in Long Beach Opera's NIXON IN CHINA now running at the terrace Theatre in Long Beach. Executive Director Sandra Ishida was honored to be invited by David to view this incredible production. CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID AND ANNA!!

Review by OC REGISTER: Leave it to ever-enterprising Long Beach Opera to unearth the landmark work, seen for the first time in two decades in Southern California Saturday night at the Terrace Theater in Long Beach. The little company made quite a show of it, too, with a new production headed by director Peter Pawlik, conducted by Andreas Mitisek and blessed with a terrific cast of singing actors (**DAVID BLAIR!**)

"Nixon," of course, is called a "landmark" for good reason. It was the first of the so-called "CNN operas," featuring a story right out of recent history and living personages. The opera marked a turning point in the career of John Adams as well, and its influence on operadom since then has been considerable.

Still, Act Two is remarkable theater, with Pat taking a choreographed tour of Chinese factories, schools and hospitals, and then the theatrical performance-within-a-performance. (**ANNA WASSMAN WAS THE FEATURED SOLOIST! AMAZING! LEGS THAT GO ON FOREVER! VERY DIFFICULT CHOREOGRAPHY! THE AUDIENCE LOVED HER! SO HAPPY TO SEE WHERE HER BALLET TRAINING TOOK HER!**)

The women's trio of Mao's secretaries, seen amusingly as floor lamps in Scene Two, were solid, as was the chorus (**DAVID BLAIR, TENOR**), prepared by Opera Pacific's (***DAVID BLAIR'S FORMER COMPANY!**) Henri Venanzi. Mitisek led an intense and energized orchestra that seemed to relish all of the pulsing portent in Adams' music.

As said, it's a good show. "Nixon in China," is worth seeing. Unfortunately, in these tough times, there's only one more performance, on March 28, but there's plenty of room in the cavernous Terrace Theater. (**EVEN LONG BEACH OPERA FEELS THE PINCH OF THESE ECONOMIC TIMES, BUT THE THEATRE WAS HUGE AND FULL OF ENTHUSIASTIC ARTS LOVERS! WHAT A GREAT NIGHT! THANK YOU, DAVID FOR INVITING ME!**)