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 Editor: D. Doyel

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TODAY: An Afternoon at the Opera

Tyler Thompson tenor, recently made his Long Beach Opera debut, singing the role of Amon the High Priest in *Akhmaten*, by Philip Glass. In the 2011 season, he will demo the role of Tomas Chacon for the Los Angeles Opera and Placido Domingo in *Dulce Rosa*, a new opera by Lee Holdridge, and he will reprise the role of Dick Johnson in the Los Angeles Opera Outreach's *The Prospector*, also by Holdridge based on Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West*.

In the 2009-2010 season, Mr. Thompson performed as an Apprentice Artist with Sarasota Opera, performing in scenes as Manrico from *Il Trovatore*, Walther from *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, and Dick Johnson from *La Fanciulla del West*. He also appeared as a Young Artist with Toledo Opera, performing the role of the Alchemist and the Crook in a mainstage production of Bernstein's *Candide*, and as Frederic in over fifty outreach performances of *The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan. Mr. Thompsons has performed routinely with Celestial Opera, including the roles of Jenik in the *Bartered Bride* and Belmonte in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*.

In addition to his experience on the operatic stage, Mr. Thompson is a gifted recitalist. Recent programs include music by Handel, Schubert, Haydn, Schumann, Wolf,

Berlioz, Massenet, Franck, Poulenc, Brahms, Blitzstein, and Ravel. He also appeared in the world premieres of *Sutter Creek*, a song cycle for voice and piano by Robert Denham.

Mr. Thompson holds performance degrees from and Biola University and California State University Fullerton, where he recently returned as a guest artist to perform the role of Nemorino in *L'elisir d'Amore*.

Mr. Thompson is the Worship Pastor at HOPE Christian Fellowship in San Gabriel and an Adjunct Faculty member at Biola University in La Mirada

Perhaps a serenade of “**Covina Rotary Happy Birthday, Fortissimo**” would provide Mr. Thompson with an unfamiliar, and unforgettable musical experience. We are pleased to have him with us today.

ADD YOUR OWN CAPTION:

Our President Elect Craig Cerro just returned from the RI Convention in New Orleans:



My submission: “**No doubt about it, New Orleans is the best place to go for discount rhinoplasty.**”

LAST WEEK

A big thank you to Harry Borak for securing a truly spectacular program for us last Thursday. When I walked into our meeting room it was like my early days as a young Rotarian, (actually *the* youngest Covina Rotarian). The large and energetic crowd was treated to an entertaining talk by John Semcken, a veteran Naval aviator and graduate of the USN Fighter Weapons School, who spoke to about his experiences as a pilot and as technical advisor for the motion picture “Top Gun.”

CALENDAR

June 30th – 6:00PM Covina Rotary’s orderly transition of power occurs as we say goodbye and thank you to our most adept Presidential Accountant, at the successful conclusion of a most taxing job.

July 25th – Concert in the Park

Quotebook: Last week’s program was timely since our speaker was a veteran and it coming so close to Memorial Day. Over the weekend I read this quote and I wanted share with you all: *It is, in a way, an odd thing to honor those who died in defense of our country, in defense of us, in wars far away. The imagination plays a trick. We see these soldiers in our mind as old and wise. We see them as something like the Founding Fathers, grave and gray haired. But most of them were boys when they died, and they gave up two lives — the one they were living and the one they would have lived. When they died, they gave up their chance to be husbands and fathers and grandfathers. They gave up their chance to be revered old men. They gave up everything for our country, for us. And all we can do is remember.*

[-Ronald Reagan](#)