

The Skinny from the Steiny Road

NEWS FROM THE STEINY ROAD POET, A.K.A.

KARREN LALONDE ALENIER

Poet@SteinOpera.com

Alenier.blogspot.com

© WRITES FIRST ACADEMIC PAPER

SINCE 2003, the Steiny Road Poet has been writing a monthly column on Gertrude Stein and opera for *Scene4 Magazine* at scene4.com. Her February 2008 column celebrating Stein's 134th birthday opened the door for the paper "On To Do: A Book of Alphabets and Birthdays—Was Gertrude Stein Medievalist, Futurist or Both?"

When the SR Poet saw the call on the Women's Poetry Listserv for the Lifting Belly High conference, she decided to take the big plunge into the deep waters of academia. In June, her abstract was accepted and the rest of the summer was devoted to research, development, and writing. An interview with Martha Dana Rust, a medievalist who wrote on Stein as a graduate student set the SR Poet's wheels in motion, a eureka moment—did Stein's work have points in common with medieval literature? Read more about the nail-biting experience of presenting one's first academic paper at Alenier.blogspot.com. See the abstract at <http://vectors.usc.edu/thoughtmesh/index.php>.

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IN AUGUST 2008, Grace Cavalieri, impresario of "The Poet & the Poem," a radio show uploaded from the Library of Congress to National Public Radio, captured sound bytes from Toad Hall, a new artist retreat in North Haverhill, NH. Imagine meeting for the first time one's favorite novelist Barbara Quick, author of *Vivaldi's Virgins*, while being encouraged to speak into a mic and tell stories about how exciting our life experiences have been. Grace had limited time left at the idyllic 100-acre retreat when the SR Poet arrived. Stay tuned for more info on the radio program and on Toad Hall.

© SCHEDULES MINI BOOK TOUR

LAST SUMMER while in residence at Toad Hall working on the index for her Steiny Road book (TH has WIFI!), the SR Poet was invited to talk on Gertrude Stein at Montgomery College in Rockville, MD. After that, she started working on other speaking engagements.

IN JUNE 2008, she got an invitation from the music department at Catholic University. This September-15th invitation resulted from contacts made during the week-long music conference at CUA on Thornton Wilder, a prelude to the new opera *Our Town* by poet J. D. McClatchy and composer Ned Rorem.

© SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2008 AT 8–9:15 AM
Duquesne University Power Center
Room AB, Pittsburgh, PA
Lifting Belly High: A Conference on Women's Poetry Since 1900

Alenier presents talk: "On To Do: A Book of Alphabets and Birthdays—Was Gertrude Stein Medievalist, Futurist or Both?"

<http://www.duq.edu/womenpoets/>

© SUNDAY, SEPT. 14, 2008 AT 6 PM
Iota Bar and Restaurant
2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22201
The Iota Poetry Series

Short poetry readings by Alenier & others.

More info: 703 522-8340

© MONDAY, SEPT. 15, 2008 AT 12 PM
The School of Music at Catholic University
Ward Hall, Room 211, Harewood Rd. and Michigan Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20064

ALENIER speaks: "Collaboration: Pushing Tender Buttons," a talk drawn from her book *The Steiny Road to Operadom: The Making of American Operas*.

More info: Grayson Wagstaff at 202 319-5414

© THURSDAY, SEPT. 18, 2008 AT 6:30-9 PM
George Washington University Special Collections
The Washington Writers' Collection
GWU Gelman Library

2130 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20052

Short poetry readings by Alenier & others, live Jazz.

More info: 202 994-0628

© MONDAY, SEPT. 22, 2008 AT 7:30 PM

* SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION *

Barnes & Noble

4801 Bethesda Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

Barbara Quick reads from her novel

Vivaldi's Virgins.

More info: 301 986-1761

© SUNDAY, OCT. 19, 2008 AT 3-4 PM

The Drama Book Shop

250 W. 40th St., New York, NY 10018

Alenier talks from her book *The Steiny Road to Operadom* and

Encompass New Opera Theatre

singer Eve Gigliotti sings arias

from *Gertrude Stein Invents a*

Jump Early On.

More info: 212 944-0595

© FRIDAY, FEB. 20,

2009 AT 4 PM

The Graduate Center, CUNY,

365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016

75th anniversary celebration of

Four Saint in Three Acts

Alenier talks from her book *The Steiny*

Road to Operadom and other events,

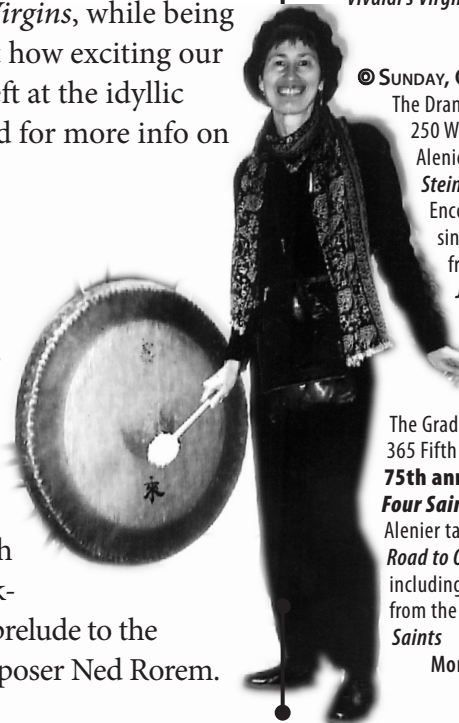
including live performance excerpts

from the Stein-Thomson opera *Four*

Saints

More info: Alenier.blogspot.com

(check back for updates)



⊙ IN MAY 2008 after numerous phone calls and visits with key players in NYC, the SR Poet met with Allen Hubby, the manager of the Drama Book Shop, and Nancy Rhodes, the director-developer of the Karren Alenier-William Banfield Stein opera, to set the October 19 date for her reading and for a performance by soprano Eve Gigliotti, who created the role of Gertrude Stein. It was a heady meeting with Nancy and Allen that included their shared passion about String Theory.

LEO ON SEESAW

for the pleasure of Gertrude Stein

Little Buddha	little brooder
Kleiner Bruder	tiny brother
bitty bother	sitting baldly
in the butter	in the batter

shaking philosophic digits
 in the kitchen
 for the Kuchen
 has been eaten
 by the kitten

wearing mittens	in the winter
hiding splinters	in his fingers

finding spiders
 in the cracks
 of the plaster
 So we laughed

twenty HA HA HA HA HA
 in metered breathing
 something close
 to the day
 he was born

Karren L. Alenier

⊙ IN MARCH 2008, she dropped by the CUNY Graduate Center to discuss the promotion of her book with Frank Hentschker, Director of CUNY's Segal Theatre. That impromptu meeting resulted in a daylong program to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Gertrude Stein's and Virgil Thomson's opera *Four Saints in Three Acts*. The festivities include a live performance drawn from the opera by Encompass New Opera Theatre, a showing of Steven Watson's film "Prepare for Saints" (he will introduce the film and talk about his book documenting the birth

of *Four Saints*), a talk by American art historian Wanda Corn (Corn has written extensively on Stein's 1934-35 lecture tour when Stein saw her opera in Chicago following 60 performances in NYC), an exhibit by the Stein-Toklas collector Hans Gallas, a book talk by the SR Poet, and more. Stay tuned for the detailed schedule and mark you calendar now for this historically important event.

NOTICES

⊙ PURCHASE *The Steiny Road to Operadom: The Making of American Operas* from the Drama Book Shop (212 944-0595) or online from the publisher at www.unlimitedpublishing.com/alenier/.

⊙ PURCHASE *Looking for Divine Transportation* (winner of the Towson Prize for Literature & includes poems on Gertrude Stein) or *Gertrude Stein Invents a Jump Early On* (the libretto) from The Word Works at wordworksd.com/.

⊙ READ Karren Alenier's arts blog *The Dressing* and her monthly column on poetry, opera, and Gertrude Stein. Visit www.scene4.com/

⊙ VISIT Karren Alenier's publishing blog at alenier.blogspot.com/ to read and to link to the Stein opera website at steinopera.com.

⊙ SUBSCRIBE to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gertrudesteinopera/> to receive monthly news about the Gertrude Stein opera and the Steiny Road Poet.