

During our visit, almost two years ago, you mentioned a famous opera singer who is a friend of yours. Unfortunately I can't remember who the lady is; she's a 'household word', but I've forgotten which household word! You mentioned her in the context of her possible participation in a benefit concert when the project was further along.

There's to be a benefit concert in Norman next year, the last weekend in May or the first in June, for the project. It will be held in a large private house, and will be intimate in scale; a few musical selections from the show with piano accompaniment, a reading by Robert from the novel, and perhaps a performance by Don Grooms, the folk-singer whose ballad inspired Robert to write the book. There may also be a concurrent showing at Jacobson House of the paintings that Murv Jacob did of scenes from the novel. (You mention in your book Murv's painting of Charley and his wolves... Jacobson House may ask to borrow it from you!)

This concert is too small an event to invite an artist of your friend's stature to participate in, but it could serve as the prototype for a more elaborate venture, perhaps in the early fall of next year, in Tahlequah. Robert and I have begun discussing with various people at Northeastern State the involvement of the school in the project. That involvement might include a gala benefit concert, either at Northeastern or in the outdoor theater at the Heritage Center, and that would be an occasion worthy of inviting the lady in question to be part of.

It may be early to ask you (I'm keely aware of all the 'mights', 'coulds', and 'woulds' above!), but internationally-known opera stars are booked many years in advance. If there's a possibility of her being available and interested, we should approach her as soon as possible -- and of course her availability and interest would in turn affect the school's enthusiasm about participating.

I look forward to hearing from you about this, and meanwhile congratulate you again on the book. It's a major item on my giving-for-Christmas list this year, and I hope it sells a mountain of copies, as it deserves to.

Best regards,



Linder Chlarson