Garden State Opera’s artistic and musical director Francesco Santelli is presenting the world premiere performance of *Tamar da Timna* (Tamar of Timnah) from *Misery to Glory* at the Caldwell College Student Center Auditorium on Oct. 27 at 4 pm.

The opera was commissioned by the Assisi Music Festival to Santelli, who is also Composer-in-Residence of the annual festival which takes place in Assisi, Italy.

Every year musicians converge upon this medieval village to produce world-class vocal and chamber music. Santelli says plans are in the works to stage his original opera there, as well.

Santelli, librettist and composer of the work, has pointed out that the story of Tamar in the Bible (Genesis 38) is brief, but a fascinating and intriguing one that attracted his attention years back. The central character in the opera, Tamar, has been criticized by many biblical scholars because of her peculiar behavior. “In fact, in the story, she hid her identity among some temple (harlots) in the city of Enaim to seduce Judah,” says Santelli. According to the composer, in the opera “Tamar da Timna,” audiences will be presented with a new view of Tamar. The dramatic interpretation of the libretto and the music will view Tamar’s actions as “inspired from above.”

Judah and Tamar are immortalized in the Gospels for being the lead progenitors of a glorious genealogy that goes from King David to the Messiah himself, hence from the misery of the Enaim’s moment to the glory of Judah’s justification of her, and finally her position in history.

The story of Tamar, a biblical figure little known and much less understood, is inspirational, Santelli maintains, “because of her faith in the will of heaven which she espoused at the risk of her life. She understood that Judah’s lineage had to continue, through her life of prayer and knowing the prophecy received by Jacob on his deathbed.”

As for the music, he says “the opera is tonal and melodic with abundance of dissonances throughout, according to the different emotions and moments the characters experience onstage.” There are several dances in the work, including a temple dance, Tamar’s dance for Judah and a dance in Judah’s household to celebrate the return of his son, Shela.

The libretto is in Italian with English supertitles and the production is staged with an orchestra. Tickets are $20, $15 for students and seniors. For more info, call Santelli at 973-685-9972, email gstopera@optonline.net or on the web at gardenstateopera.homestead.com.
Passages is an exhibit by the Inner City Ensemble (ICE) in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. ICE is a Paterson non-profit youth arts group which began in 1973. The exhibit, which can be seen at the PCCC Broadway and LRC galleries from Oct. 19 through Jan. 9, spans several decades, and includes photos of the newly re-established ICE youth group. Nicholas Rodriguez, the company’s Artistic Director, and the exhibit curator, Tomaz Tomanek, have selected photos that demonstrate the scope of the organization’s performance and training history. ICE, originally founded by Ralph Gomez, and re-incorporated in 2010, is committed to bringing dance and theatre training to underserved, at-risk Paterson youth. A reception, free to the public, is on Nov. 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Call 973-684-5448 for more info.

The Friends of Long Pond Ironworks, with the 6th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, present a Civil War Living History weekend on Oct. 5 and 6. Open 11 am to 5 pm on Saturday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday, donations are $5 and $1 per child. Proceeds go to restoration and interpretation at Long Pond Ironworks, a National Historic Landmark in the Hewitt section of West Milford. Founded in 1766 and operated continually until 1882, the workers at Long Pond made iron for a wide range of purposes, from military to commerce and homes. Today, the ruins of three furnaces and other unique structures remain within Long Pond Ironworks State Park. Re-enactors will give ongoing demonstrations of military drills, a day in the life of a soldier, and talks on various aspects of the war and soldering throughout the weekend. There will also be candle lantern tours on Oct. 5, which provide a rare glimpse of village life and Civil War military camps at night. Tours culminate with entertainment at the blast furnaces by the musicians of the 6th New Hampshire. For info, call 973-657-1688 or at www.LongPondIronworks.org.

The Passaic County Historical Society hosts a Beefsteak Fundraiser and Tricky Tray on Oct. 1 at 6:30 pm at the Brownstone in Paterson. Dinners are $50 and reservations are required. Call 973-247-0085 ext. 201. For those who do not eat beef, chicken and fish options are available. Proceeds benefit the Passaic County Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, founded to cultivate interest among individuals and the community in the history of Passaic County. To this end, Lambert Castle showcases examples of the County’s cultural and artistic diversity, as well as examples of the County’s natural, civil, military, and ecclesiastical history. The Society also maintains a library and archive of books and photographs of historical and genealogical interest at Lambert Castle at 3 Valley Rd. in Paterson. Go to lambertcastle.org for more details.

The American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark will screen the film Schmatta: Rags to Riches to Rags on Oct. 18 at 7 pm, as part of its festivities to mark National Arts and Humanities Month. This HBO documentary explores the rise and fall of New York’s fabled schmatta (rag) trade as a microcosm for the economic shocks that have changed our lives. It will be followed by a discussion lead by Professor Irwin Nack, William Paterson University (retired). Additionally, there will be a presentation and booksigning by Richard Polton, author of the book The Life & Times of Fred Wesley Wentworth, the Architect who shaped Paterson, NJ & Its People. The book will be available for purchase. Polton, a real estate expert who is also a city planner and architect, will discuss his book and the forgotten history of this influential architect and the immigrant families of the City of Paterson. Admission is free. The Botto House is at 83 Norwood St., Haledon. It was the meeting place for over 20,000 silk mill workers during the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike. Today it offers a free lending library, restored period rooms, changing exhibits, museum store, old world gardens, educational programs and special events. Open Mon. to Fri., 9 am to 4 pm, tours are offered Wed. through Sat. from 1 to 4 pm or by appointment. Details at www.labormuseum.net or call 973-595-7953. W
Music at the Mission offers concerts in an intimate coffeehouse atmosphere with open admission and seating for 160 at the West Milford Presbyterian Church, 1452 Union Valley Rd., West Milford. While nationally touring acts have appeared there, the group’s theme is ‘keeping great live music local and affordable.’ This includes West Milford’s Paige Califano of The Dwells—the Berklee College of Music alumni who made a name for themselves in the Boston area since their band formed in 2011—will take the stage on Oct. 19. Americana singer/songwriter Amy Speace will return to the Mission stage on Nov. 16. Self-described ‘adventurous folk’ musician Heather Maloney will appear on Dec. 14. Tickets are $18 or $22 and can be purchased at www.musicatthemission.org or by calling 973-728-4201.

St. Timothy Musicales, an annual fall series of one-hour noon concerts at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 395 Valley Rd., Wayne, opens on Oct. 16 with jazz vocalist Dana Reedy. Backed by her rhythm section of bass, guitar and light drum, she will perform standards, bossa nova and light blues. On Oct. 23, baritone James Pierce, accompanied on piano, presents Love and Compassion, consisting of tuneful love melodies through the years. The Oct. 30 performance will be Ludwig Van Beethoven (aka Dennis Kobra) performing the composer’s greatest hits. The programs are free, and individuals and groups are welcome. For details, call 973-956-0026.

The New Legacy Concert Series at the Ringwood Public Library opens on Oct. 20 with Heather Maloney and her band. Tickets for this concert are $15. Louisiana’s Grammy-winning BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet, wraps up autumn’s concert offerings at 2 pm on Nov. 17. Tickets are $25. The Library is at 30 Cannici Dr., Ringwood. Call 973-962-6256 or go to www.ringwoodlibrary.org.

The Bloomfield Mandolin Orchestra conducted by Enrico Granafei, performs at the Clifton Arts Center on Oct. 12 at 1:30 pm in honor of Italian-American Heritage Month. Admission is free and open to the public. The event will celebrate Italian tradition, culture and customs. Seating is limited. For reservations, contact the Arts Center at 973-472-5499 or at artscenter@cliftonnj.org. The Bloomfield Mandolin Orchestra is now in its 72nd season, operates under the auspices of the Bloomfield Federation of Music, and is comprised of volunteer musicians from the region. In conjunction with this event, the gallery will have an exhibit and sale of tapestry artwork by Susan Martin-Maffei and Archie Brennan. The Clifton Arts Center & Sculpture Park is at 900 Clifton Ave. More details at www.cliftonnj.org.

The Harlow Trio, an emerging chamber music group comprised of alto saxophone, flute, and piano, will perform at the Allwood Community Church, 100 Chelsea Rd., Clifton, on Oct. 13 at 3 pm. The performers, all graduates of William Paterson University, will perform a commissioned piece by Dr. Payton MacDonald of WPU in their repertoire. Admission is $5. Call 732-841-1591.

The Lena Di Gangi Gallery, at 320 Union Blvd., Totowa, will feature the work of five photographers in a show called 5BW Photography during October. Photographers are Marco Cantini, Carlos Ortiz, Michael McKenna, Rob Kovacs and Michael Craft. A free reception with food and music is on Oct. 6 from 2 to 5 pm. Contact Michael Craft at 862-221-1830 or at mcphoto1021@yahoo.com.

Without Adornment: Photographs by George Tice is exhibited at the Ben Shahn Center for Visual Arts at William Paterson University in Wayne through Dec. 13. The show will coincide with exhibitions at the Newark Museum and the Nalia Alexander Gallery in NYC. On display will be gelatin silver prints from the photographer’s Paterson series, as well as some platinum/palladium prints. For info and directions, go to wpunj.edu/coac/gallery.

Wayne Public Library, 461 Valley Rd., begins its Lunchbox Learning Series on Oct. 2 with David Vincenti and A Measure of this World – Poems in the Voice of Galileo. On Oct. 23, Bill Levy presents Hollywood’s Musical Trios. On Oct. 30, violinist David Podles performs Classical Composers through the Epochs. Sponsored by the Friends of the Wayne Public Library, guests may bring a brown bag lunch to the free series. Doors open at noon; programs begin at 12:30 pm. Contact 973-694-4272 x5408, or rosenblad@waynepubliclibrary.org, for details.
The Distinguished Poets Series of the Poetry Center at PCCC is celebrating the publication of the Paterson Literary Review (PLR) with a reading on Oct. 12 at 1 pm at the Hamilton Club Building, 32 Church St., Paterson. The reading will include contributors to issue #41. For more details, call 973- 684-6555 or go to www.pccc.edu/poetry.

Poetry workshops for mature adults 50 and over, are offered by the Poetry Center at PCCC. The workshops will be led by poets Maria Gillan and Laura Boss. Cost is $40 for four sessions and advance registration is required. The Fall workshops will take place on Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10 and 17. The Spring workshops are on March 13 and 27 and April 3 and 10. Workshops are at the PCCC Wanaque Academic Center, 500 Union Ave., Wanaque. For details, visit www.pccc.edu/poetry.

The Poetry Center at PCCC seeks poems for an anthology to celebrate the Great Falls, the Passaic River and environmental issues. Deadline is Dec. 5. The anthology’s poets will be invited to read as part of the Great Falls Literary Festival on May 10, 2014. Judges seek poetry rooted in the literary tradition that honors place, narrative, clarity and specificity. Poets can write about any aspect that subtly or overtly relates to the Falls, the River or any part of its eco-system and natural environment. Likewise, they may write from a personal experience regarding immigration and labor in Paterson or with the River and its creatures, plants, history, scenic beauty and changes. Details at www.pccc.edu/poetry.

A free workshop on short film production for high school and college students, as well as independent filmmakers, is on Oct. 26 from 9 am to 1 pm in Totowa. Industry professionals will offer tips on everything from staging and scriptwriting to shooting schedules and post production tips. The event serves as a primer to the 9th Passaic County Film Festival, which is on April 26, 2014. Other topics include criteria and judging, formats for film submission, and other contest prizes. The workshop will also give an overview of this juried exhibition of student and independent filmmakers’ work. The only entry requirement is that those who submit videos must live, attend school or work in Passaic County. The deadline for film submissions is Jan. 30. Call 973-569-4720 or email film@passaiccountynj.org.

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts can earn badges or do service projects at the American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark. Projects include building bookshelves, working in the yard or meeting with guides. Programs and projects are age appropriate and meet Scouting guidelines. Topics range from labor life of the early 1900’s to current labor issues. The Botto House also offers Saturday labor art classes for students from grades 3 through 5. The idea is to introduce students to the history and contemporary issues of working people and immigrants through the visual and performing arts. Classes end on Dec. 21 and pre-registration is required. For info, call 973-595-7953 or go to www.labormuseum.net.