

# IRON BARON



NOVEMBER A.S. LVIII

# Baronial Officers

Baron - Sir Erik Martel

(Joe Goodwin) - Baron.IronMtn@meridies.org

Baroness - Mistress Gwenndolynn ni hAilleachain

(Stacy Hall) - Baroness.IronMtn@meridies.org

Seneschal - Maestra Magdalena da Parma

(Louise Webb) - Sen.IronMtn@meridies.org

Exchequer - Lady Emma Wyatt

(Jen King) - Excheq.IronMtn@meridies.org

Herald - Vacant

Knight's Marshal - Sir Erik Martel

Rapier Marshal - Baroness Genevieve Alaiz D'Avignon

(Kayla Adams) - Rm.ironmtn@meridies.org

Minster of Arts and Sciences - Mistress Margery of Crosgate

(Margie Hyatt) - AS.ironmtn@meridies.org

Chatelaine - Vacant

Chronicler - THL Christopher Aubrey

(Brian King) - Chron.IronMtn@meridies.org

RUM Provost - Vacant

Quartermaster - Baroness Genevieve Alaiz D'Avignon

(Kayla Adams) - Rm.ironmtn@meridies.org

Dance Master - THL Iain MacArthur

(Nicholas Milano) - KM.IronMtn@meridies.org

Webminister - Maestra Magdalena da Parma

(Louise Webb) - Web.IronMtn@meridies.org

Historian - Lady Emma Wyatt

(Jen King) - Hist.IronMtn@meridies.org

Minister of Youth - Lady Ailith de Steddham

(Ashley Setters) - MoC.IronMtn@meridies.org

Cover Art: Incomplete panel of embroidery, cut through and damaged in central area. Panel of opusanglicanum; needlework; mounted; figures under two-and-a-half Gothic arches representing the Annunciation. 1310-1340

Made in England

[https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H\\_1919-0305-1](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1919-0305-1)

## Meetings

The Barony of Iron Mountain meets in Room 108 at Valley Christian Church, 2600 Cherokee Place, Mountain Brook, Alabama 35216. Room 108 is best accessed by driving around to the far right side of the building, parking in the back of the church, and entering on the ground floor covered entrance. Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of the month from 6:30 to 8 pm central. The first Thursday is the Barony's business meeting. The third Thursday is class night.

November 2 - Business Meeting

November 16 - Class Night

December 7 - Business Meeting

December 21 - Class Night CANCELLED - Holiday Party info to come

Fighter Practice is held Sundays at Patriot Park. (710 Oak Grove Rd, Homewood, AL 35209) Park at Corky Bell Dance Studio. Start time is dependent on weather and proximity of events. Please check the Facebook page for announcement.

## *Congratulations*

Sir Cairbre mac Siomaigh and Baroness Celestine de Chatham  
Order of the Sable Athanor (Barony of the Osprey)

## *Upcoming Events*

November 4 - Come Together - A Reunification Event  
Shire of Glynn Rhe

November 10-12 - Fall Crown List  
Shire of Arenal

November 16-19 - Castle Wars  
Barony of South Downs

December 1-3 - Magna Faire  
Barony of Iron Mountain

## Da'ud Bob's Movie Reviews for December 2023

Let me start out by saying that I am, to say the least, not a big fan of modern music composed by people who think that discordant notes with little to no trace of an actual melody. Indeed, I have never really understood, nor liked, such “Arty with a capital A” music. I find it pretentious, affected, and hard to listen to. This is not to say that I dislike music in general; I was raised on, and played both in band and orchestra, all kinds of music, from popular through classical through folk and more. But you need to be aware of my bias against such music going in to this month's movie review, because it is an opera written in just such a style. Not that I have a problem with opera per se. I don't. I am familiar with, and have enjoyed watching, a wide variety of operas, from Madame Butterfly, though Turandot, to Pagliacci, to Carmen (which Anna Sue has an issue with; she believes that Carmen takes way too long to die!), and even P.D.Q. Bach's The Abduction of Figaro. But this production is not like any of those. And clearly, not everyone shares my bias; the Classical Music Critic for the New York Times extolled it. (You can find his review on-line at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/15/arts/music/hamlet-opera-met.html>) But this review is going to be from my perspective, not his, as this month, Da'ud Bob reviews the PBS Great Performances airing of the Metropolitan Opera's presentation of Brett Dean's **Hamlet**.

Starring Allan Clayton in the title role, with Brenda Rae as Ophelia, Rod Gilfrey as Claudius, Sarah Connelly as Gertrude, William Burden as Polonius, John Relyea as the Ghost (as well as playing the King of the players and the Gravedigger), David Butt Philip as Laertes, Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen and Christopher Lowrey as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, and Jacques Imbrailo, the basic story here is the same as in every other production of Hamlet, the biggest difference is that everyone is singing nearly everything, and some of the scenes, lines, and characters have

been rearranged to show up in different places. For example, Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern show up both earlier and later in the action here than they do in the Shakespearean play.

Good points: The words are mostly Shakespeare's. There are moments of real inspiration in the opera. Allan Clayton as Hamlet does a good job with what he's been given. Horatio is more of a "hail-fellow-well-met" character than I have seen in most other productions, and it's a plus here. The player's tabard; it's not heraldic, but it's very nice nonetheless. The set is remarkably flexible, being quickly and efficiently rearrangeable, becoming almost another character in the opera. Ophelia's mad scene, madder than I have seen in any other production. Hamlet making "rabbit ears" with his fingers behind Claudius' head.

Bad points (besides the discordant non-musical music): There is often too much repetition of lines of dialogue. Too much pale makeup (effectively, whiteface) on all of the main characters. The music often does not mesh well with the words being sung. Is that a ghost or a zombie, the way he staggers? "The very ecstasy of love" as a round sung among six singers. Even the most poetic and musical of Shakespeare's lines sound out of scansion and discordant. A monkey hand puppet as a love token? Between the discordant music and having the actors sing over each other, even though the performance was done in English, it was often hard to understand the words. (Thank goodness for subtitles!)

Zero breasts (unless you count the shirtless ghost). 1½ gallons of blood. Seven dead bodies. Dagger fu. Sword fu. Poisoned sword fu. Poisoned wine fu. Hamlet rolls. Ophelia rolls. Gratuitous smoke/fog. Gratuitous repetitions of lines. Academy Award nomination to the set designer, for making the sets a major character in the production. An 83 on the Vomit Meter. 2 Stars. Da'ud Bob says, "I think that music actually killed brain cells. I know it gave me a headache. Check it out!"

THE BARONY OF IRON MOUNTAIN PRESENTS

*Magna Faise* | MEDIEVAL  
HOLIDAY

DALWHINNIE FIELDS • DECEMBER 1-3, 2023

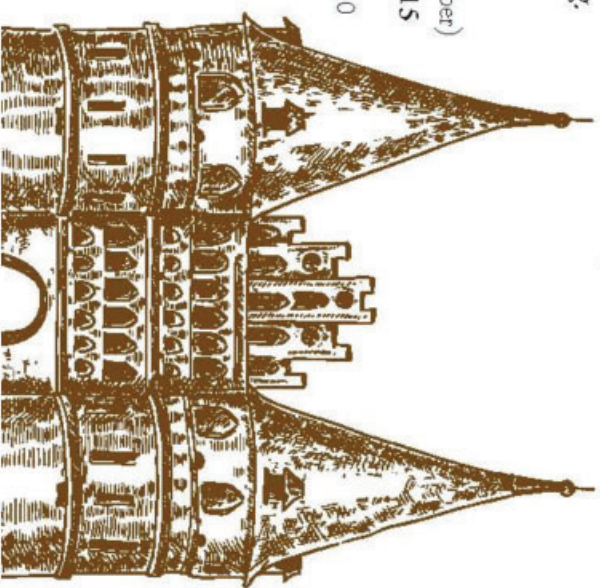
Join us for a Medieval holiday weekend where you can enter a project in the Magna Faise or the A&S Regional. A special brewing track is planned along with other special interest classes. Rapier and heavy fighters can take part in the Toys for Tots charity tournament, the Sword and Mistletoe Tournament and the popular Iron Mountain Baronage Rapier Tournament. Site opens Friday at 5 pm central and closes Sunday at 10 am central. *Look for more information on the Facebook Event page and at [ironmountain.meridies.org](http://ironmountain.meridies.org).*

Weekend Fee	Day Trip Fee	Breakfast additional
Non-member \$28.00	Non-member \$22.00	Feast additional \$12
Member \$23.00	Member \$17.00	Bunk Space additional (limited number)

Children Admitted FREE but food and bunk space is additional. Upper bunks \$13 Lower bunks \$15

Event Steward – Maestra Magdalena da Parma (Louise Webb) at [SenIronMtn@meridies.org](mailto:SenIronMtn@meridies.org) or 205 529 1010  
Magna Faise Open and Class Steward – Mistress Marsali of Crosgate • K&S Regional – Duchess Thorkatla Herjolsdottr at [artscl@meridies.org](mailto:artscl@meridies.org) • Feast Steward – Mistress Aislinge MacCuirthein (Carla Neal) at [carlaneal@comcast.net](mailto:carlaneal@comcast.net) • Knights Marshal – THLord Iain MacArthur at [KMIronMtn@meridies.org](mailto:KMIronMtn@meridies.org)

Directions: Dalwhinnie Fields, 251 Co. Rd. 58, Marion, AL 36701. From the North: Take your best route to AL-14, Turn left onto Co Rd. 58. From the South: Take your best route to AL-14, Turn right onto Co. Rd. 58. Use Google Maps for Navigation. Make checks payable to: SCA, Inc/Barony of Iron Mountain. Mail to: Lady Emma Wyatt (Jen King), 1579 Vestridge Circle, Vestavia AL 35216



THE SHIRE OF ARENAL  
HOST

# FALL CROWN LYST

2023

November 10 - 12, 2023  
THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS  
1958 Lewis Turner Blvd.  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

<https://goo.gl/maps/ZcQsQvRDKXoZ84xk7>

## Contact Us

Event Steward

Mistress Jane Wolfdon

Email

wolfdenjanesca@gmail.com

Feast Stewards

Maestra Magdalena da Parma

Baroness Genevieve Alaiz

D'Avignon

Email

Magdalena.parma1@gmail.com

Reservationist

Lord Michael of Arenal

Email

Excheq.arenal@meridies.org

Field Side Coordinator

Lord Job fitzGodric

Email

sabella2020@gmail.com

Non-Member Weekend: \$35

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Children 17 and under: Free!

Feast: \$15 (Breakfast included)

Event Early Bird Discount: \$4  
Ends October 11th.

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Iron Baron  
1579 Vestridge Circle  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

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