



THE DALLAS OPERA™

MEDIA ALERT

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**THE DALLAS OPERA ANNOUNCES
BASS-BARITONE
JOHN MARCUS BINDEL
In the New Dallas Opera Production
*Mary Queen of Scots***

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January 5–13, 2007 in the Music Hall at Fair Park

DALLAS, DECEMBER 12, 2006 — **The Dallas Opera** is announcing another company debut in the upcoming **Stephen Lawless** production of *Mary Queen of Scots*; a new Dallas Opera production premiering **Friday, January 5, 2007** in the **Music Hall at Fair Park**: The role of Lord William Cecil will be sung by Bass-Baritone **John Marcus Bindel**.

Mr. Bindel steps into the role after Daniel Borowski withdrew from the part due to illness.

“We’re very fortunate that Mr. Bindel was available and willing to learn the role of Cecil on such short notice,” explains **Director of Artistic Administration Jonathan Pell**. “I have been eager to invite Mr. Bindel to sing with The Dallas Opera since I first heard him as an apprentice in Santa Fe, but it just never worked out – until now.”

John Marcus Bindel's European debut led the *Altenburger Landeszeitung* to exclaim, "This young man's voice has been kissed by God." *Opera News* recently declared that "he displayed a rich, burnished bass."

Recent engagements included Hunding in *Die Walküre* with the Washington Opera, Frère Laurent in *Roméo et Juliette* with Florida Grand Opera, Jochanaan in *Salome* with Nashville Opera, Zuniga in *Carmen* with Cleveland Opera, and Truffaldino in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with the Spoleto Festival USA. Other recent highlights include a return to the Washington Opera for *I vespri Siciliani* and as Fasolt in *Das Rheingold*, as well as a return to Florentine Opera to sing the role of the King in *Aida* and Jokaanan in *Salome* in Seville, Spain.

Mr. Bindel performs frequently with the Washington Opera, appearing there as the King in *Aida*, Zuniga in *Carmen*, Sparafucile in *Rigoletto*, the Reverend John Hale in *The Crucible*, Ferrando in *Il trovatore*, Pietro in *Simon Boccanegra*, Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, Lord Walton in *I puritani*, the Frontier Guard and Levitsky in *Boris Godunov*, Klingsor in *Parsifal*, First Nazarene in *Salome*, Sourin in *Pique Dame*, and the Police Sergeant in *The Consul*. Mr. Bindel joined the Washington Opera on tour in Japan during the summer of 2002, singing Snare in *Sly* and Sciarrone in *Tosca*.

Mr. Bindel made his New York City Opera debut in the 1999-2000 season as Sarastro in *The Magic Flute* and since then has returned as Motorcycle Cop and Prison Guard in *Dead Man Walking*, Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, reprisal of the role of Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, Colline in *La bohème*, Lorenzo in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, Sparafucile and Monterone in *Rigoletto*, William Jennings Bryan in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, and the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*.

Internationally, he made his European debut with Oper Alenburg and has performed Ferrando with the Opera de Bellas Artes in Mexico City.

In the summer of 2001 John Marcus Bindel sang Don Marco in *The Saint of Bleecker Street* with the Spoleto Festival in Spoleto, Italy, which was recorded on the Chandos label. Additional previous engagements have included Masetto in *Don Giovanni* and Zuniga in *Carmen* with Opera Company of Philadelphia, Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* and Colline in *La bohème* with Cleveland Opera, Zuniga in *Carmen* with Opera Colorado, Masetto in *Don Giovanni* with Chicago Opera Theater, Abimelech in *Samson et Dalila* for Palm Beach Opera, and the role of Friend Ed in *Burning Bright* with Opera Festival of New Jersey. He made his Lyric Opera of Chicago debut in 1996 in *Don Carlo*.

Mr. Bindel made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2002, as the bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah*. His orchestral repertoire includes the *Requiems* of Fauré and Duruflé; *Messiah*; Schubert's *Mass in G*; Brahms' *Neue Liebeslieder Walzer*; Handel's *Utrecht Te Deum* and *Jubilate*; and Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*; and Richard Einhorn's *Voices of Light*, which he performed with the National Symphony Orchestra.

John Marcus Bindel was a regional finalist in the 1995, 1997, 1998, and 1999 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. In 1999, Mr. Bindel was a semi-finalist in **Placido Domingo's Operalia Competition** in Puerto Rico. He is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University, received his Masters in Music from Northwestern University and was an apprentice with Santa Fe Opera, where he appeared in productions in 1995 and 1996.

Performances will take place **January 5, 7(m), 10 & 13, 2007** in the Music Hall at Fair Park, conducted by **Music Director Graeme Jenkins**. Easy-to-read English translations are projected above the stage during every Dallas Opera performance and special headsets are available for the hearing impaired.

**Secure the seats you want – now! – For the once-in-a-lifetime
Fiftieth Anniversary Season of The Dallas Opera!
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In response to increased public demand, The Dallas Opera is introducing its first **FLEX Subscription Package: Three productions (your pick) from The Dallas Opera's 50th Anniversary Season for as little as \$105 -- for an orchestra seat! Seating is Limited, so act now! Call TDO's ticket office at 214-443-1000.**

THE DALLAS OPERA 2006-2007 SEASON INFORMATION

The Dallas Opera celebrates its fiftieth anniversary season with 20 performances of five productions in the Music Hall at Fair Park. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. (except for *Lohengrin*) and matinees begin at 2 p.m. (except *Lohengrin*, see below). EASY-TO-READ ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS ARE PROJECTED ABOVE THE STAGE AT EVERY PERFORMANCE. For more information, visit dallasopera.org.

NABUCCO by Giuseppe Verdi

November 10, 12(m), 15 & 18, 2006

A New Dallas Opera Production and a Dallas Opera Premiere!

An opera in four acts first performed at Milan's Teatro alla Scala, March 9, 1842. Text by Temistocle Solera after the play by Auguste Anicet-Bourgeois and Francis Cornu and the ballet by Antonio Cortesi.

Time: 586 B.C.

Place: Jerusalem and Baylon

Conductor: Graeme Jenkins

Stage Director: James Robinson*

Production Design: Frances Bagley** and Tom Orr**

Lighting Design: Paul Palazzo*

Chorus Master: Alexander Rom

Starring: Anna Shafajinskaia (*Abigaille*), Katharine Goeldner* (*Fenena*), José Luis Duval (*Ismaele*), Zeljko Lucic* (*Nabucco*), Peter Rose* (*Zaccaria*), Mark McCrory (*High Priest of Baal*), Joseph Hu (*Abdallo*), and Ava Pine* (*Anna*)

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE by Gioachino Rossini

December 1, 3(m), 6 & 9, 2006

Production from New York City Opera

An opera in two acts first performed on February 20, 1816 at Rome's Teatro Argentina. Text by Cesare Sterbini, after the comedy by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais.

Time: 18th century

Place: Seville, Spain

Conductor: Graeme Jenkins

Stage Director: Helena Binder*

Production Design: Desmond Heeley

Lighting Design: Marie Barrett

Chorus Master: Alexander Rom

Starring: Vivica Genaux (*Rosina*), Richard Croft (*Count Almaviva*), Giorgio Caoduro** (*Figaro*), Donato DiStefano (*Doctor Bartolo*), Oren Gradus (*Don Basilio*), Sheryl Woods (*Berta*) and Steven Hall (*Ambrogio*).

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS (Maria Stuarda) by Gaetano Donizetti

January 5, 7(m), 10 & 13, 2007

A new Dallas Opera production and a Dallas Opera Premiere!

An opera in three acts first performed as "Buondelmonte" at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, October 18, 1834. Text by Giuseppe Bardari, from the tragedy by Friedrich Schiller.

Time: 1567

Place: The Palace of Westminster, London

Conductor: Graeme Jenkins

Stage Director: Stephen Lawless

Scenic Design: Benoit Dugardyn

Costume Design: Ingeborg Bernerth*

Lighting Design: Wolfgang Goebbel

Chorus Master: Alexander Rom

Starring: Majella Cullagh* (*Mary Stuart*), Adina Nutescu (*Queen Elizabeth I*), Stephen Costello* (*Earl of Leicester*), James Westman (*Talbot*) and Daniel Borowski* (*Cecil*).

BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE by Béla Bartók

In Concert – January 17, 2007, at the Meyerson Symphony Center

(Tickets not included in season subscription but subscribers will receive first priority.

Tickets are \$50, \$75 and \$200. See dallasopera.org for more details.)

An opera in one act first performed at the Royal Opera, Budapest, Hungary on May 24, 1918. Text by Béla Balázs. **A Dallas Opera 50th Anniversary Special Event.**

Starring: Denyce Graves (*Judith*) and Robert Lloyd (*Duke Bluebeard*)

Conductor: Graeme Jenkins

A woman, enraptured by the dark personality of Duke Bluebeard, abandons her home, family and fiancé to follow him to his mysterious fortress. There, she discovers seven doors that hold secrets, she believes, will enable her to understand the man she loves. Instead, Judith learns that every room hides a nightmare...a nightmare she cannot escape!

LA RONDINE by Giacomo Puccini

January 26, 28(m), 31 & February 3, 2007

Production from New York City Opera, a Dallas Opera Premiere!

An opera in three acts first performed at Théâtre du Casino in Monte Carlo on March 27, 1917. Text by Giuseppe Adami from a German libretto by Alfred M. Willner and Heinz Reichert.

Time: 1850

Place: A Parisian salon

Conductor: Stephen Lord*

Production: Lotfi Mansouri

Stage Director: Michael Scarola*

Scenic Designer: Ralph Funicello*

Costume Designer: Sam Kirkpatrick*

Lighting Designer: Jeff Harris

Choreographer: Candace Evans

Chorus Master: Alexander Rom

Starring: Verónica Villarroel (*Magda*), Caroline Worra* (*Lisette*), Massimo Giordano* (*Ruggero*), Gordon Gietz (*Prunier*), Kelly Anderson* (*Rambaldo/Steward*), Mark McCrory (*Perichaud*), Steven Hall (*Gobin*), John Bates* (*Crebillon*), Ava Pine (*Yvette*), Abba Hamza* and (*Bianca*) Lisa Huffaker (*Suzy*).

LOHENGRIN by Richard Wagner

February 15, 18(m), 21 & 24, 2007

A Dallas Opera Premiere!

PLEASE NOTE EVENING CURTAIN MOVED BACK TO 7:00 PM, MATINEES AT 1:30 PM.

An opera in three acts first performed in Grossherzogliches Hoftheater in Weimar on August 28, 1850.

Text by Richard Wagner.

Time: The Middle Ages

Place: In and near Antwerp

Conductor: Graeme Jenkins

Stage Director: Alfred Kirchner*

Scenic & Lighting Design: Ramón López*

Costume Design: María Elena Amos*

Chorus Master: Alexander Rom

Starring: Nancy Gustafson* (*Elsa of Brabant*), Jeanne-Michèle Charbonnet (*Ortrud*), Christopher Ventris* (*Lohengrin*), Sergei Leiferkus (*Frederick of Telramund*), Michael Todd Simpson (*The King's Herald*) and Dean Peterson (*King Henry the Fowler*).

* Dallas Opera Debut

** American Opera Debut

Ticket Information for the 2006-2007 Dallas Opera Season

Presented by the Elsa von Seggern Foundation

Special Gratitude extended to Margot and Bill Winspear

Subscriptions to The Dallas Opera's 2006-07 Season are currently on sale. Subscriptions start at just \$75 for all five productions. You-Pick-'Em Flex Packages available, beginning at just \$105. Single tickets become available October 2, starting at \$19. For more information or to order tickets, contact The Dallas Opera Ticket Services Office at (214) 443-1000 or visit TDO's web site at dallasopera.org.

The Dallas Opera is supported, in part, by funds from: **City of Dallas, Office of Cultural Affairs; TACA;** and the **Texas Commission on the Arts**. The Dallas Opera would like to thank its 2006-2007 production underwriters, including: **Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Nokia** and **Margot and Bill Winspear**. **American Airlines** is the official airline of The Dallas Opera. Advertising support from **The Dallas Morning News**.

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