



THE DALLAS OPERA

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 4, 2006

Contact: Suzanne Calvin

214-443-1014

suzannec@dallasopera.org

Fifty Years in the Making!

OPENING NIGHT AT THE DALLAS OPERA

HONORING PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD

November 10, 2006, at The Hall of State

Sponsored by Park Place Motorcars

DALLAS, OCTOBER 4, 2006 — **The Dallas Opera** will host a glamorous black-tie event, *The Opening Night Celebration*, **Friday, November 10, 2006**, to inaugurate its once-in-a-lifetime 2006-2007 Season and the first performance of an all-new Dallas Opera production of Giuseppe Verdi's immortal masterpiece, **NABUCCO**, our patrons most-requested opera!

This stellar evening, the first of the company's **50th International Season**, is also The Dallas Opera's way of saying "thank you" to a host of distinguished Past Presidents of The Dallas Opera Board.

Corporate sponsors include **Park Place Motorcars**.

"The excitement and exhilaration of *The Opening Night Celebration* is shared by our party guests and members of the cast," explains **Special Events Manager Katie Buchanan**. "I am so thrilled with our plans for a year-long party honoring half a century of civic pride and performing arts excellence!"

The curtain goes up – on the party, that is! – at **6:00 pm, Friday, November 10th at The Hall of State** conveniently located inside Fair Park.

Guests will be treated to a sizzling, **Mediterranean-themed cocktail reception and buffet**, featuring Wild Mushroom Risotto Balls, individual Puff Crust Pizzas, and Pepperoncino Polenta with Pecorino Wrapped in Italian Proscuitto.

Following the wine and champagne reception, guests will be transported from the Hall of State to the Music Hall for The Dallas Opera's opening night and the world's first look at the new **James Robinson** production of NABUCCO, designed by **Frances Bagley and Tom Orr**.

Following the performance, guests will be transported once again to the Hall of State for a **V.I.P. Cast Dinner Celebration** – featuring a meal designed by **Andrew Ormsby Catering** and destined to tantalize the tastebuds of the most demanding gourmand!

Highlights include Jerusalem Artichoke Soup with Crème Fraiche, Italian Sausage and Mushroom Calzones, Spinach and Fennel Strudel with White Truffle Cream Sauce, Lamb Kofte, Bacalao (salt cod fritters with garlic-tomato aoli), Tiramisu, Sweet Cheese Fig Tartlettes and more!

The general director, conductor, stage director, performers, designers and senior staff members associated with this production will mingle with guests in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

Your reservation includes transportation between the Music Hall at Fair Park and The Hall of State, but does NOT include tickets to that evening's performance of *Nabucco*.

Vintages will include fine wines, generously donated by **Segura Viudas Aria**. Floral decor by the talented designers at **The Garden Gate**.

Reservations for the **cocktail reception** alone are priced at **\$50 per person**.

A special anniversary price has been set for this once-in-a-lifetime celebration, so that even more of our valued Dallas Opera family can enjoy the every glamorous moment! **Dinner** with the cast of *Nabucco* is **\$125 per person**. Reservations to **enjoy both very special events** are **\$150 per person**.

American Express, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover cards are accepted.

For additional information about *The 2006 Opening Night Celebration*, please contact **Special Events Manager Katie Buchanan** at **214-443-1063**, Katie@dallasopera.org, or fax your request to 214-443-1060.

Reservations must be received by November 3, 2006.

Tickets to the opening night of *Nabucco* may be purchased separately by contacting **The Dallas Opera Ticket Office at 214-443-1000** or by visiting us online at dallasopera.org.

**Secure the seats you want – now! – For the once-in-a-lifetime
Fiftieth Anniversary Season of The Dallas Opera!
Season subscriptions begin at just \$75 for all five productions!
And Flex Subscription packages are available for as little as \$105 for three shows –
three shows YOU pick!**

In response to increased public demand, The Dallas Opera is introducing its first **FLEX Subscription Package: Three productions of your choosing 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.**
SINGLE TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR AS LITTLE AS \$19!

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: Ruth Ann Swenson (*Maria Stuarda*), Adina Nitescu (*Elisabetta*), Michael Colvin* (*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* (*Ruggiero*), Gordon Gietz (*Prunier*), Kelly Anderson (*Rambaldo/Steward*), Mark McCrory (*Perichaud*), Steven Hall (*Gobin*), John Bates* (*Crebillon*), Ava Pine (*Yvette*), Abla 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 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*.