



**THE DALLAS OPERA  
MEDIA RELEASE**

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**THE DALLAS OPERA ANNOUNCES  
GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING JAZZ TRUMPETER**

# **CHRIS BOTTI**

**WILL PERFORM AS SPECIAL GUEST STAR WITH  
LEGENDARY SOPRANO RENÉE FLEMING**

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**“BRAVO 50!” CONCERT TICKETS GO ON SALE  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2007, STARTING AT \$85**

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DALLAS, AUGUST 29, 2007 — **The Dallas Opera** is very pleased to announce that the Company’s once-in-a-lifetime 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, “**Bravo 50!**” featuring headliner **Renée Fleming** and **The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus**, now includes special guest star **Chris Botti**, the Grammy Award-winning trumpeter who dazzles with his inventive approach to unforgettable jazz standards.

“Bravo 50!” will take place **Saturday, November 17, 2007 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center** in downtown Dallas. Tickets for the **7:30 pm concert** go on sale September 17th, priced at \$85 to \$225 each.

“We have an opportunity with this concert and event, for those who have not heard The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus, to experience what a fine company we have here in Dallas,” enthused **Joyce Mitchell, Chairman of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**.

“And it was well worth the time,” she added, “to find the perfect second star for

our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert to perform with our headliner, Renée Fleming. Chris Botti is an exceptional musician and performer. The word is that Botti is thrilled to share the stage with Ms. Fleming and she is equally delighted to have him as her special guest. I believe our concertgoers will enjoy an electrifying evening – one they will remember for a long, long time.”

Tickets for the complete “Bravo 50!” Gala, which includes a pre-performance cocktail party, the 7:30 pm concert followed by a seated gala dinner at the Meyerson and post-dinner dancing with **The Hunter Sullivan Orchestra**, begin at \$1,000.

“It has been an honor to work with such a talented team of volunteers and Dallas Opera staff members in creating ‘Bravo 50!’ and we are so very appreciative of the efforts of the Dallas business community and our many friends who have partnered with us to make this evening unforgettable,” explains “**Bravo 50!**” **Chairman Sally Berry**.

“This celebration will not only honor our past,” Ms. Berry remarked, “it will also support The Dallas Opera in its exciting future – including the planned move to the **Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House** at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts in 2009.”

For information or table packages, contact Dallas Opera Special Events Manager Katie Buchanan at **214-443-1063**.

“Bravo 50!” concert tickets will be available to Dallas Opera subscribers beginning September 4, 2007 and to the general public on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be purchased online, at that time, at [www.dallasopera.org](http://www.dallasopera.org) or by contacting The Dallas Opera Ticket Office at **214-443-1000**.

**Publicity photos available on request: [suzannec@dallasopera.org](mailto:suzannec@dallasopera.org).**

### **Key Bios:**

#### **Renée Fleming**

Renée Fleming’s luminous sound, brilliant stage presence and superb artistry are just a few of the qualities that make her one of the world’s most beloved and recognizable figures. Her freshness and purity of tone, together with an exceptional musical intelligence and grace, continue to enchant audiences worldwide. As a passionate champion of creativity in the arts, she continues to be a proponent of new music and an advocate of overlooked masterpieces.

Ms. Fleming’s 2007-08 Season brings her to the opera houses of New York, Chicago and Vienna. She appears in two of her signature roles with the Metropolitan Opera: Violetta in *La traviata*, in November 2007, and Desdemona in *Otello*, in February 2008. She repeats *La traviata* for the Lyric Opera of Chicago in January 2008, and in June, she appears at the Vienna State Opera in a new production of Strauss’ *Capriccio*.

A much-loved and warmly welcomed artist throughout the world, Ms. Fleming performs at the 2007-08 season gala opening nights of the National Symphony Orchestra,

the San Francisco Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic; and in November 2007, the Dallas Opera presents her in solo concert to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Other highlights include the world premiere of the song cycle *Le Temps L'Horloge*, written for her by Henri Dutilleux, which she debuts in September with Seiji Ozawa at the Saito Kinen Festival in Japan, and repeats in November with James Levine and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, which brings it to New York's Carnegie Hall in December. In Spring 2008, Ms. Fleming performs and records Strauss' *Four Last Songs* with the Munich Philharmonic under Christian Thielemann.

In November 2007, Decca releases the Los Angeles Opera's production of *La traviata* on DVD, featuring Renée Fleming, Rolando Villazon and Renato Bruson. A two-time Grammy winner, Ms. Fleming's most recent CD, entitled *Homage – The Age of the Diva*, was released in the fall of 2006 and is comprised of rarely-heard works associated with legendary singers of the past. In recent years, this nine-time Grammy nominated artist has recorded everything from Strauss' complete *Daphne* to the jazz recording *Haunted Heart*, to the movie soundtrack of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, and has been honored with a 2006 Echo Award for her recording of Strauss' *Daphne*, as well as the Classical Brits Awards in 2004 for *Outstanding Contribution to Music* and in 2003 for *Female Artist of the Year*. In May 2007, TDK's DVD production of *Capriccio*, with Ms. Fleming singing the title role, was awarded the *Prix Maria Callas Orphée d'Or* by the Académie du Disque Lyric, which awarded her the inaugural *Prix Solti Orphée d'Or* in 1996.

Renée Fleming's artistry has been an inspiration to many other prominent artists, such as Chuck Close and Robert Wilson, whose portraits of her were included in the Metropolitan Opera's 2007 fund-raising auction. A portrait of Ms. Fleming was also created by Francesco Clemente, who displayed the work at Salzburg's *Easter Festival* in Spring 2007. Among her numerous awards are the *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur* by the French government (2005), which was preceded by the *Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* (2002); Honorary Membership in the Royal Academy of Music (2003); and a 2003 honorary doctorate from The Juilliard School, where she was also commencement speaker.

An advocate for literacy, Renée Fleming has been featured in promotional campaigns for the Association of American Publishers (*Get Caught Reading*), and the Magazine Publishers of America's READ poster campaign for the American Library Association. She was honored by The New York Public Library as a "Library Lion." Her book, "*The Inner Voice*," was published by Viking Penguin in 2004, and released in paperback by Penguin the following year. An intimate account of her career and creative process, the book is also published in France by Fayard Editions, in the United Kingdom by Virgin Books, by Henschel Verlag in Germany, and Shunjusha in Japan.

In addition to her work on stage and in recordings, Renée Fleming has represented Rolex timepieces in print advertising since 2001. Master Chef Daniel Boulud has created the dessert "La Diva Renée" (1999) in her honor, and she has inspired the "Renée Fleming Iris" (2004), which is being replicated in porcelain by Boehm. Having been added to Mr. Blackwell's best dressed list in 2001, her gowns have been designed by Gianfranco Ferré, Issey Miyake, Bill Blass, Vivienne Westwood, Angel Sanchez, Oscar de la Renta and John Galliano for Dior.

Renée Fleming, who was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in Rochester, New York, studied at The Juilliard School, holds degrees from the State University of New York at Potsdam and the Eastman School of Music, and was a Fulbright Scholar for study in Germany. Early awards included the Metropolitan Opera National Auditions, the Richard Tucker Award, and the George London Prize. She is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Hall Corporation and of the Advisory Board of the White Nights Foundation of America.

### **Chris Botti**

Trumpeter Chris Botti is a gifted instrumentalist, a talented composer, and a charismatic performer who--since the release of his first solo album in 1995--has created a series of recordings that have made him a virtual genre-of-one in the realm of contemporary jazz. Through his singular combination of lush atmospheres and thoughtful improvisations, Botti has earned both critical acclaim and mainstream appreciation.

Botti's latest album, *To Love Again*, a collection of pop jazz standards from the acclaimed trumpeter and nine superstar guest vocalists, is a worthy successor to Botti's last RIAA gold-certified album, *When I Fall In Love*.

*To Love Again* showcases Chris Botti's inimitable velvet tone and sublime trumpet phrasings on 13 newly recorded pop and jazz standards featuring nine stand-out vocal performances by some of the greatest singers in modern pop, jazz, and rock. After the first week of release the album debuted in the Billboard Top 200 in the #18 chart position promising great things. *Billboard* Magazine has predicted it could be "an even bigger hit" than its predecessor which remains in the Top Five of the Traditional Jazz Chart.

*To Love Again* follows the extraordinary success of Botti's groundbreaking last album, *When I Fall In Love*, which has sold more than 500,000 copies to-date.

Botti's association with Sting--who sings with Botti on both *To Love Again* and *When I Fall In Love*--dates back to 1999, when the trumpeter joined the pop legend's band as featured soloist on the "Brand New Day" tour, which lasted two-and-a-half years. Veteran of both the contemporary jazz world and mainstream pop studio scene, Botti has worked with Joni Mitchell, Natalie Merchant, and renowned film composer John Barry, among others. Film critic Rex Reed has called him "the sexiest trumpeter since Chet Baker." Botti joined Paul Simon's band in 1990, where he remained for the next five years, and, in 1995, he recorded his solo debut, *First Wish*. After scoring the 1996 film "Caught," Botti returned in 1997 with his second LP, *Midnight Without You*, which was followed by *Slowing Down the World* two years later. His 2002 watershed album, *Night Sessions*, peaked at #2 on the Top Contemporary Jazz Albums chart while his seasonal collection, *December*, released the same year, hit #7 on the same chart.

Released in September 2003, *A Thousand Kisses Deep* entered at #20 on the Billboard Top Heatseekers chart and hit the #3 position on the Contemporary Jazz chart.

Chris Botti is a native of Oregon who was born in Portland and grew up in Corvallis. His earliest musical influence was his mother, a classically trained pianist and part-time piano teacher. He pursued his music studies with a succession of outstanding teachers: David Friesen in the Northwest, Dave Baker in Indiana, and--following Botti's move to New York City in 1986--the late trumpet master Woody Shaw.

When Paul Simon set out on a 15-month world tour in 1990, Chris became a key sideman in a backing group that combined Brazilian and African players with New York session veterans like Randy Brecker, Richard Tee, and Steve Gadd. Botti's solo debut, *First Wish*, was released in 1995; his second effort, *Midnight Without You* (a collaboration with English ambient pop group the Blue Nile) appeared in 1997 and was followed by *Slowing Down The World* in 1999. The Academy Award-winning film composer John Barry cast Chris as the featured soloist in his orchestral score *Playing By Heart*.

In the studio and on stage, Chris Botti worked with such leading singer-songwriters as Marc Cohn, Joni Mitchell and Natalie Merchant; as a sideman, he has appeared on dozens of albums, compilations and soundtracks. In 2000, Chris joined Sting for two years of roadwork, as the featured soloist with the latter's "Brand New Day" band. That tour culminated in Tuscany, where the concert was taped, later to become Sting's first live CD in 15 years. "Sting in Tuscany: All This Time" aired as a part of the A&E "In Concert" series, garnering six Emmy nominations in the process. The documentary was later released on DVD.

Working with band mate and multi-instrumentalist Kipper, Chris's Columbia label debut *Night Sessions*, inspired by the sounds of the late-night European club scene, was written and recorded during a two and a half-month hiatus between Sting tours. The album became a breakthrough contemporary jazz hit upon its release in October 2001. A Columbia DVD, *Night Sessions – Live In Concert*, was issued in August 2002. Taped live at the historic El Rey Theater in Los Angeles, "Chris Botti and Friends" featured the trumpeter with his own expert road band, plus, guest appearances by Sting and Shawn Colvin.

On his next Columbia release, *A Thousand Kisses Deep*, Chris started to show his affinity to the "classics," recording a now-renowned arrangement of the Miles Davis standard "My Funny Valentine." The reaction to this performance made Chris realize his next album would do well to focus on the repertoire of the great American songbook.

*When I Fall in Love* was recorded in Los Angeles and London in 2004 and produced by veteran Bobby Colomby. Working with some of the most accomplished arrangers and orchestrators around, it has been hailed as "an instant classic" by many and continues to sell well nearly a year after its release. Botti's big break came when he was "discovered" by Oprah Winfrey, who quickly championed his artistry to her audience, presenting him on her show in November of 2004.

Botti has outdone himself with the release of his latest album: *To Love Again*. Employing nine of this era's finest vocalists, relying on sublime orchestral arrangements, and once again under the direction of producer Bobby Colomby, this album has fulfilled the highest expectations.

### **Graeme Jenkins (Conductor)**

By the end of 2007 Graeme Jenkins will have conducted 150 operatic productions of 100 different works, his repertoire spanning from the early Italian baroque to world premieres by Stephen Oliver (ENO) and Tobias Picker (recorded by Chandos). From Glyndebourne, Covent Garden, English National Opera, Scottish Opera and Opera North in the UK, his career has taken him to Australian Opera, Canadian Opera, Danish Opera,

Glimmerglass, Cologne Opera, Netherlands Opera, Paris Opera and the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Having recently renewed his Music Directorship contract with The Dallas Opera, he will take the company through to May 2011 and oversee their transition into their new home, the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts in 2009. Highlights from his time there include becoming the youngest ever British conductor to have conducted the complete *Ring Cycle*, as well as productions of *Wozzeck*, *Jenůfa*, *Ariodante*, *Lohengrin* and *The Queen of Spades*. This season he conducts Verdi's *Macbeth*, *The Merry Widow* and *Salome* in addition to leading the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Company with this Gala performance.

In recent seasons, Graeme Jenkins made his debut at Vienna State Opera with the celebrated Willy Decker production of Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd* with Simon Keenlyside in the title role. Subsequently, he was invited to take over *Jenůfa* from Seiji Ozawa and he will return to Vienna for further performances of *Jenůfa* in 2009 and *Der fliegende Holländer* in 2010. This summer, he made his debut at the Theater an der Wien with *The Marriage of Figaro*. His close association with Royal Danish Opera began with *La Clemenza di Tito* in 2004 and continues in the next two seasons with a new production of *Figaro* and *Don Carlos*.

Graeme Jenkins is also in great demand as an orchestral conductor, and in recent seasons has worked with the Minnesota, Dallas, Houston, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Danish National Radio Symphony, Gulbenkian, National Orchestra of Porto, Melbourne and West Australian Symphony Orchestras. Reinvitations during the next two seasons include Finnish Radio Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, Danish Opera Orchestra and Utah Symphony. This past spring, he also made his acclaimed debuts with the Gothenburg and Galicia Symphony Orchestras.

Graeme Jenkins studied conducting at the Royal College of Music having previously read music at the University of Cambridge. He worked with Norman Del Mar and Sir David Willcocks, and as an Adrian Boult Conducting Scholar directed Britten's *Albert Herring* and *The Turn of the Screw*. He lives in Dorset with his wife Joanna and their daughters Martha and Isabella.

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**Ticket Information for the 2007-2008 Dallas Opera Season**  
**Presented by the Elsa von Seggern Foundation**  
**Special Gratitude extended to Margot and Bill Winspear**

**Subscriptions to The Dallas Opera's 2007-08 Season are currently on sale. Full season subscription ticket prices range from \$75 to \$1,020. Single tickets are priced at \$15 to \$199, if purchased in advance, and go on sale to subscribers September 4<sup>th</sup>. Single ticket sales to the general public begin September 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. 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](http://dallasopera.org).**

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