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THE DALLAS OPERA

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THE DALLAS OPERA
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
The 52nd INTERNATIONAL SEASON:

LOVERS & SCOUNDRELS

Opening Night: November 14, 2008

DALLAS, JANUARY 6, 2008 — **The Dallas Opera** is proud to announce our final season in the Music Hall at Fair Park on the stage where it all began: the **52nd International Season, “Lovers & Scoundrels: The Boys Your Momma Warned You About.”**

The Dallas Opera’s final season in the Music Hall at Fair Park, prior to our long-anticipated move into the **Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts**, will consist of five tremendous productions (including one new Dallas Opera production of an opera never before seen or heard in Dallas) featuring several of the world’s best-loved operas: Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro* (November 14-22, 2008); *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss II (December 5-13, 2008); Donizetti’s *Roberto Devereux* (January 23-31, 2009); Puccini’s *La bohème* (February 13-21, 2009); and – in a nod to our own illustrious history – Rossini’s *The Italian Girl in*

Algers (March 6-14, 2009), the first work performed by The Dallas Opera when it opened its doors in 1957.

Director of Artistic Administration **Jonathan Pell** explains, “We have assembled a constellation of stars worthy of the more than fifty years of great artists who have performed on the stage of the Music Hall.”

The 52nd International Season: Lovers & Scoundrels” will mark the Company debuts of a host of world renowned international artists including sopranos **Valentina Farcas, Ana María Martínez, Hasmik Papian** and **Susanna Phillips**; mezzo-sopranos **Manuela Custer** and **Jennifer Holloway**; tenors **William Burden** and **James Valenti**; baritones **Patrick Carfizzi, Dwayne Croft** and **Weston Hurt**; and basses **Robert Gleadow** and **Paolo Pecchioli**.

Returning artists include sopranos **Maria Kanyova, Lyubov Petrova** and **Ava Pine**; mezzo-sopranos **Elizabeth Batton, Suzanna Guzman** and **Marianna Kulikova**; tenors **Stephen Costello** and **Bruce Ford**; baritones **Dwayne Croft, Christopher Feigum, Wolfgang Holzmair, David Kempster, Daniel Okulitch, Michael Todd Simpson** and bass **Stephen Morscheck**.

Four of the five season productions will be conducted by **Dallas Opera Music Director Graeme Jenkins** and a list of wonderful stage directors from “A to Z:” **Chris Alexander, John Copley, Stephen Lawless, Mark Streshinsky** and **Tomer Zvulun**.

The 2008-2009 Season will open in the **Music Hall at Fair Park** at **7:30 PM on the evening of Friday, November 14, 2008** when The Dallas Opera presents one of the most moving operas in the repertoire: THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO, a 1786 masterpiece by the man many consider the greatest composer in Western Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. This New York City Opera production was designed by **Carl Toms** and will be staged by one of the world’s most renowned opera directors, British-born **John Copley**, who last staged The Dallas Opera’s critically acclaimed 2006 production of Handel’s *Rodelinda*.

Considered revolutionary – both musically and politically – this lively romantic comedy begins with Figaro and Susanna preparing for their wedding night, not realizing how many people they’ll have to maneuver around in order to fall into each other’s arms! Filled with one breathtaking aria after another, this is Mozart at the height of his considerable powers.

Conducted by Dallas Opera Music Director **Graeme Jenkins**, the piece will star **Daniel Okulitch** as Figaro and **Lyubov Petrova** as his beloved Susanna. Mr. Okulitch,

who first came to national attention as Schaunard in Baz Luhrmann's Broadway production of *La bohème*, and who appeared in a double role in The Dallas Opera's 2005 production of *The Tales of Hoffmann*, has been described as "a dynamic and effective stage presence...extra tall, extra thin and with a focused, resonant baritone that he wielded with power and sensitivity." (*New Jersey Star-Ledger*).

Russian soprano **Lyubov Petrova** enchanted local audiences as Zerbinetta in our 2006 production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, the same role in which she made her successful Metropolitan Opera debut.

The Marriage of Figaro also stars American baritone **Michael Todd Simpson**, who sizzled as Silvio in The Dallas Opera's *Pagliacci* and then returned in 2007 to portray what Scott Cantrell of *The Dallas Morning News* described as a "sit-up-and-take-notice Herald" in our now-legendary production of *Lohengrin*.

Here, he sings the role of Count Almaviva opposite **Susanna Phillips** in her Dallas Opera debut as the Countess. A favorite of opera aficionados at Santa Fe Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago, Ms. Phillips has won four of the world's leading vocal competitions: Operalia (First Place and the Audience Prize), the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the MacAllister Awards and the George London Foundation.

Jennifer Holloway appears in her company debut as the love-struck Cherubino.

The supporting cast includes bass **Stephen Morscheck** as Doctor Bartolo and mezzo-soprano **Suzanna Guzman** as Marcellina.

Wig and make-up design by **David Zimmerman**.

The chorus will be prepared by Chorus Master **Alexander Rom**.

All performances will be sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

Additional performances of THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO will take place on Sunday, November 16, 2008 at 2:00 pm and November 19th and 22nd at 7:30 pm in the Music Hall.

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The second production of the 2008-2009 Season, **DIE FLEDERMAUS** ("The Bat") by Johann Strauss II, opens **Friday, December 5, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the Music Hall at Fair Park.**

Sung in English, this production from Seattle Opera will be conducted by Music Director **Graeme Jenkins** and staged by **Tomar Zvulun** in his Dallas Opera debut.

The opera marks the return of German baritone **Wolfgang Holzmair**, who delighted Dallas audiences as "an endearingly goofy" (*The Dallas Morning News*)

Papageno in *The Magic Flute* (2006). It also marks the company debut of Grammy Award winner **Ana María Martínez** as Rosalinde.

Praised by *La Scena Musicale* for her “stunning voice – I dare say she rivals the best of today,” this lyric soprano from Puerto Rico is garnering passionate fans for both her exciting live performances and her award winning recordings.

This production also stars Dallas Opera favorite, soprano **Ava Pine** as Adele, and tenor **Bruce Ford** as Alfred.

The stellar supporting cast includes baritone **Christopher Feigum** as Dr. Falke and mezzo-soprano **Marianna Kulikova** as Prince Orlofsky.

This is the work that defined Viennese operetta at the height of its Golden Age in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Marked by one memorable hit after another, you’ll be swaying to these much-loved melodies long after the performance is done. *Die Fledermaus* is considered by many to be the Dom Pérignon of opera.

The production design is by **Zack Brown** with wigs and make-up design by **David Zimmerman** and chorus preparation by Chorus Master **Alexander Rom**.

**Additional performances of DIE FLEDERMAUS will take place on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 2:00 pm and the evenings of December 10 and 13, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the Music Hall.**

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The third production of the 52nd International Season is a new Dallas Opera production of Gaetano Donizetti’s riveting 1837 historical drama: **ROBERTO DEVEREUX**, never before seen on The Dallas Opera stage. The three-act tragedy will open **Friday, January 23, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Music Hall at Fair Park**.

Conducted by Music Director **Graeme Jenkins** and staged by **Stephen Lawless**, we’ve reunited the production team from last season’s *Mary Queen of Scots*, including Scenic Designer **Benoit Dugardyn** and Costume Designer **Ingeborg Bernerth**, with wig and make-up design by **David Zimmerman**.

This fiery bel canto work pits England’s Queen Elizabeth I against the clever and ambitious Robert, Earl of Essex, his demure lady love – and her unsuspecting husband. Donizetti’s last and greatest opera for Naples’ Teatro San Carlo is as passionate as it is political.

Armenian soprano **Hasmik Papian** is an exceptional singer with a wide range of repertoire. After recently starring in the title role of *Norma* at the Metropolitan Opera, one critic remarked, “A soprano with this kind of skill is so rare that hearing a great

Norma in one's lifetime is an event akin to seeing Haley's Comet." Ms. Papian will be making her company debut in the role of Queen Elizabeth I "Good Queen Bess" of England.

Joining her in the title role of this intense tale of love and intrigue is tenor **Stephen Costello**, who recently made his Metropolitan Opera debut in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and wowed Dallas Opera audiences as Leicester in *Mary Queen of Scots*, prompting *Opera News* to write, "...his naturally heroic timbre (is) capable of expressing lyric tenderness as well as strength."

Among the stand-outs in a superb supporting cast are Welsh baritone **David Kempster** (a sympathetic and moving Sharpless in our 2005 *Madame Butterfly*) as the Duke of Nottingham and lovely mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth Batton** (a recent *Opera News* covergirl) as Sara, his wife.

All performances will be sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

Additional performances of ROBERTO DEVEREUX will take place on Sunday, January 25, 2008 at 2:00 pm and the evenings of January 28 & 31 at 7:30 pm.

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The famous Latin Quarter of Paris is the setting for the fourth production of the 2008-2009 "Lovers & Scoundrels" Season, as The Dallas Opera revives one of its most popular productions: Giacomo Puccini's immortal romance, **LA BOHÈME**, starring American soprano **Maria Kanyova** who lit up the stage as the doomed Nedda in The Dallas Opera's *Pagliacci*, prompting *Star-Telegram* Classical Music Critic Wayne Lee Gay to praise her performance as "a touch of genius."

This revival will also mark the company debut of tenor **James Valenti** in the role of Rodolfo, in which he has earned raves from publications including *The New York Times*: "...a tall, limber tenor with an ardent, penetrating voice, secure top notes and a lovely pianissimo."

Mr. Valenti and Ms. Kanyova will be joined by Metropolitan Opera star baritone **Dwayne Croft** (who recently created the role of Robert E. Lee in *Appomattox* with San Francisco Opera) as Marcello, Romanian soprano **Valentina Farcas** making her Dallas Opera debut as Musetta, Canadian bass **Robert Gleadow** in his company debut as Colline, and baritone **Weston Hurt**, a former winner of **The Dallas Opera Guild Vocal Competition**, in his Dallas Opera debut at Schaunard.

The struggling bohemians of 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris learn how to make love, how to make friends, how to trick a landlord, and how to survive in a cold, hard world.

This production will be conducted by **Maestro Pietro Rizzo** in his United States debut (prior to his upcoming Metropolitan Opera debut), staged by director **Mark Streshinsky**, and featuring sets by **Jean Pierre Ponnelle**, costumes by Dallas Opera Resident Costume Designer **Peter J. Hall**, and wig and make-up design by **David Zimmerman**.

The Dallas Opera Chorus will be prepared by Chorus Master **Alexander Rom**.  
LA BOHÈME will open **Friday, February 13, 2009** with three additional performances on **February 15(m), February 18 & 21, 2009**. **All evening performances will begin at 7:30 PM and the Sunday matinee starts at 2:00 PM.**

All performances will be sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

**There is no late seating for this, or any other, Dallas Opera production.**

The finale of the 2008-2009 Season will take us to an exotic locale for one of Gioachino Rossini's most delightful comedies: **THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS**, opening **Friday, March 6, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Music Hall at Fair Park**.

A masterful Italian comic gem by the man who gave us "The Barber of Seville." The Turkish Bey of Algiers, bored with his harem, sends the captain of his guard to find a new bride. He seizes upon the lovely victim of a planewreck, an "Italian girl" searching for her lost lover.

But don't think she'll go quietly.

This colorful Santa Fe Opera production, sung in Italian, will herald the company debuts of Italian mezzo-soprano **Manuela Custer** as Isabella, tenor **William Burden** as Lindoro, bass **Paolo Pecchioli** as Mustafa and baritone **Patrick Carfizzi** as Taddeo.

Ms. Custer, described by *Opera News* as "an impressive mezzo with a stunning high d," will tackle one of the most rambunctious heroines in opera opposite William Burden, about whom Craig Smith of the Santa Fe New Mexican wrote: "He is a tenor to sigh for, and a tasteful musician into the bargain."

Conducted by Music Director **Graeme Jenkins** and staged by director **Chris Alexander**, this production heralds the company debuts of scenic designer **Robert Innes Hopkins** and costume designer **David C. Woolard**.

Wig and make-up design is by **David Zimmerman**. Chorus preparation is by Dallas Opera Chorus Master **Alexander Rom**.

THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS opens **Friday, March 6, 2009** with additional performances scheduled for **March 8(m), 11 & 14, 2009**. **All evening performances will begin at 7:30 PM and the Sunday matinee at 2:00 PM.**

Easy-to-read English translations are projected above the stage during every Dallas Opera performance and special headsets are available for the hearing impaired.

### **TICKET INFORMATION FOR THE 2008-2009 SEASON:**

Season subscribers may renew their seats today and a limited number of new subscriber seats are being offered to the general public. A subscription seat for all five productions ranges **from \$75 to \$1,020**. The first 500 subscribers for each performance also receive a free purple parking pass.

Single tickets go on sale in September, **priced from \$15 to \$199, if purchased in advance.**

Contact Dallas Opera Ticket Services at **214-443-1000** or visit us online at [www.dallasopera.org](http://www.dallasopera.org).

### **THE DALLAS OPERA 2008-2009 SEASON INFORMATION**

The Dallas Opera celebrates its Fifty-Second International Season with 20 performances of five productions in the Music Hall at Fair Park. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and matinees begin at 2 p.m. English translations are projected above the stage at every performance and assistance is available for the hearing impaired.

#### **THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO by W.A. Mozart**

**November 14, 16(m), 19 & 22, 2008**

**Production from New York City Opera**

An opera in four acts first performed at Vienna's Berg-theater, May 1, 1786.

Text by Lorenzo Da Ponte after the stage play by Pierre-Augustin Beaumarchais.

**Time:** A single day

**Place:** The estate of Count Almaviva

**Conductor:** Graeme Jenkins

**Stage Director:** John Copley

**Production Design:** Carl Toms

**Lighting Design:** Jeff Harris

**Wig & make-up Design:** David Zimmerman

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Starring:** Daniel Okulitch (*Figaro*), Lyubov Petrova (*Susanna*), Michael Todd Simpson (*Count Almaviva*), Susanna Phillips\* (*Countess Almaviva*), Jennifer Holloway\* (*Cherubino*), Stephen Morscheck (*Doctor Bartolo*), Suzanna Guzman (*Marcellina*).

**DIE FLEDERMAUS by Johann Strauss II**

**December 5, 7(m), 10 & 13, 2008**

**Production from Seattle Opera**

Comic opera in three acts first performed at Vienna's Theater an der Wein, April 5, 1874.

Text by Carl Haffner and Richard Genée after the play by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy.

**Time:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Place:** A spa town near Vienna

**Conductor:** Graeme Jenkins

**Stage Director:** Tomar Zvulun\*

**Production Design:** Zack Brown\*

**Lighting Design:** Marie Barrett

**Wig & make-up Design:** David Zimmerman

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Starring:** Wolfgang Holzmair (*Gabriel von Eisenstein*), Ana Maria Martinez (*Rosalinda*), Christopher Feigum (*Dr. Falke*), Ava Pine (*Adele*), Bruce Ford (*Alfred*) and Marianna Kulikova (*Prince Orlofsky*).

**ROBERTO DEVEREUX by Gaetano Donizetti**

**January 23, 25(m), 28 & 31, 2009**

**A new Dallas Opera production by the team that brought you MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS!**

An opera in three acts first performed at Teatro San Carlo in Naples, October 28, 1837.

Text by Salvatore Cammarano after François Ancelot's tragedy, *Elisabeth d'Angleterre*.

**Time:** the Elizabethan Age

**Place:** London

**Conductor:** Graeme Jenkins

**Stage Director:** Stephen Lawless

**Scenic Design:** Benoit Dugardyn

**Costume Design:** Ingeborg Bernerth

**Lighting Design:** TBD

**Wig & make-up Design:** David Zimmerman

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Starring:** Stephen Costello (*Roberto Devereux*), Hasmik Papian\* (*Elizabeth the Queen*), David Kempster (*Duke of Nottingham*), Elizabeth Batton (*Sara, Duchess of Nottingham*)

**LA BOHÈME by Giacomo Puccini**

**February 13, 15(m), 18 & 21, 2009**

**Our most popular opera in one of our most popular productions!**

An opera in four acts first performed in Turin's Teatro Regio, February 1, 1896.

**Time:** 1830s

**Place:** Paris, France

**Conductor:** Pietro Rizzo\*\*

**Stage Director:** Mark Streshinsky

**Scenic Design:** Jean Pierre Ponnelle

**Costume Design:** Peter J. Hall

**Lighting Designer:** Marie Barrett

**Wig & make-up Design:** David Zimmerman

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Starring:** Maria Kanyova (*Mimi*), James Valenti\* (*Rodolfo*), Valentina Farcas\* (*Musetta*), Dwayne Croft (*Marcello*), Robert Gleadow\* (*Colline*) and Weston Hurt\* (*Schaunard*).

**THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS by Gioachino Rossini**

**March 6, 8(m), 11 & 14, 2009**

**The Grand Finale! Production from Santa Fe Opera.**

A comic opera in two acts first performed in Venice's Teatro San Benedetto, May 22, 1813.

Text substantially derived from Angelo Anelli's libretto for Luigi Mosca's 1808 *L'italiana in Algeri*.

*Time:* Fantasy

*Place:* Algiers

*Conductor:* Graeme Jenkins

*Stage Director:* Chris Alexander

*Scenic Design:* Robert Innes Hopkins\*

*Costume Design:* David C. Woolard\*

*Lighting Design:* Duane Schuler

*Wig & make-up Design:* David Zimmerman

*Chorus Master:* Alexander Rom

*Starring:* Manuela Custer\* (*Isabella*), William Burden (*Lindoro*), Paolo Pecchioli\* (*Mustafa*) and Patrick Carfizzi\* (*Taddeo*).

\* Dallas Opera Debut

\*\* American Debut

**DIGITAL PUBLICITY PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST  
CONTACT MEDIA/PR MANAGER SUZANNE CALVIN  
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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 Winspear and the late Bill Winspear**

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