



**THE DALLAS OPERA
MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 16, 2008

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**THE DALLAS OPERA IS PROUD TO PRESENT
The 52nd INTERNATIONAL SEASON OPENER**

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Opening Night: November 14, 2008

DALLAS, OCTOBER 16, 2008 — **The Dallas Opera** is proud to present 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,**” opening Friday, November 14, 2008 at 7:30 pm with Mozart’s immortal 1786 Masterpiece **THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO**.

Full season subscriptions, FLEX mini-subscriptions (three operas of the customer’s choice, \$93-\$369) and single tickets are on sale now through The Dallas Opera Ticket Services Office at **214.443.1000** or online at **www.dallasopera.org**.

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 spellbinding productions, including 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 ALGIERS** (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 MARRIAGE OF FIGARO, a brilliant romantic comedy, is considered one of the most moving operas in the repertoire by the man many regard as 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—musically and politically—this lively romantic comedy begins with Figaro and Susanna preparing for their wedding, 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*).

Most recently, he’s sparked major “buzz” on the international opera scene for his moving portrayal of the tormented scientist who lives with the consequences of his invention gone awry in *The Fly*. Mr. Okulitch appeared in both the world and American premieres (Paris and Los Angeles, respectively) in the title role.

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 tremendously successful Metropolitan Opera debut. She was declared “nothing short of sensational” in her recent Glimmerglass Opera performances as Cleopatra in Handel’s *Giulio Cesare* and recently appeared as The Queen of the Night in British director

Kenneth Branagh's film version of *The Magic Flute*, conducted by **Maestro James Conlon** and released worldwide in 2007.

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO also stars American baritone **Michael Todd Simpson**, who sizzled as Silvio in The Dallas Opera's *Pagliacci* and 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 Wagner's *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. She recently starred in the widely acclaimed new production of *Hänsel and Gretel* at Glyndebourne.

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.

Performances of THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO will take place on Friday, November 14, 2008 at 7:30 pm; 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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**There is no late seating for this, or any other, Dallas Opera production.**

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 (some areas now closed).

Single tickets are priced from **\$15 to \$199, if purchased in advance**. For \$50, patrons may purchase the best available seat in the front balcony or rear orchestra to the Friday evening performances of “Figaro” or “Fledermaus” (**Fridays for \$50**).

Contact Dallas Opera Ticket Services at **214-443-1000** or visit us online at **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:** Tomer Zvulun\*

**Production Design:** Zack Brown\*

**Lighting Design:** Marie Barrett

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

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Starring:** Wolfgang Holzmaier (*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

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The Dallas Opera is supported, in part, by funds from: **City of Dallas, Office of Cultural Affairs; TACA;** the **Texas Commission on the Arts** and **The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**. The Dallas Opera would like to thank its 2008-2009 production underwriters, including: **Marten S. Klop** and **Dr. and Mrs. Tom G. Mayer**. **American Airlines** is the official airline of The Dallas Opera. Pianos provided by **Steinway Hall, Dallas/Ft. Worth/Plano**. Advertising support from *The Dallas Morning News*. A special thanks to the **Elsa von Seggern Foundation** for its continuing support.

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