



THE DALLAS OPERA  
MEDIA RELEASE

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THE DALLAS OPERA IS PROUD TO CONTINUE  
THE 52<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL SEASON WITH  
**DIE FLEDERMAUS**  
Popular Operetta Sung in English  
Opens Dec. 5, 2008

DALLAS, NOVEMBER 5, 2008 — **The Dallas Opera** is delighted to present the world's best-loved operetta, **DIE FLEDERMAUS** ("The Bat") by **Johann Strauss II**, opening **Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the Music Hall at Fair Park.**

The work, originally written in German, will be performed *in English* with English language supertitles projected above the stage at every performance.

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**.

Last season's performances of *The Merry Widow* became one of the hottest tickets in town. The Dallas Opera is hoping to strike gold once again with this lush romantic comedy starring Latina phenomenon—Grammy Award winner **Ana María Martínez**—in her Dallas Opera debut as Rosalinde. **DIE FLEDERMAUS** also stars acclaimed Austrian baritone **Wolfgang Holzmair**, who dazzled Dallas audiences as Papageno in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, in the top-hat-and-cane role of Gabriel von Eisenstein.

Above all, it offers non-stop music by Johann Strauss II, who inherited the mantle of “The Waltz King” from his father and gave us some of opera’s loveliest sway-me-till-I-drop melodies in this 1874 masterpiece.

DIE FLEDERMAUS will be conducted by **Dallas Opera Music Director Graeme Jenkins** and staged by Israeli-born director **Tomer Zvulun** in his Dallas Opera debut.

Mr. Zvulun, on the directing staffs of both New York’s Metropolitan Opera (*Iphigenie en Tauride*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*) and New York City Opera (*King Arthur* and *Falstaff*), served for two consecutive seasons as resident stage director of Seattle Opera. This season, in addition to his Dallas engagement, he will direct Wagner’s *Der fliegende Holländer* (“The Flying Dutchman”) for Atlanta Opera, a new production of *La Rondine* at the Metropolitan Opera and a new production of *The Elixir of Love* for the Sugar Creek Festival. Mr. Zvulun is also preparing to stage *Lucia di Lammermoor* and the complete *Ring* cycle in Seattle in upcoming seasons.

Ana María Martínez, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico praised by BZ Berlin as “the most beautiful voice of Latin America,” is a favorite singing partner of the internationally renowned **Plácido Domingo** and **Andrea Bocelli**—both of whom she’s touring with this season.

Beyond her extensive and highly successful concert and recording career, Ms. Martínez appears regularly at New York’s Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Royal Opera, the Salzburg and Ravinia Festivals in addition to many other prestigious venues.

Wolfgang Holzmair, lauded by *The Washington Post* for having “a genius for connecting with his audiences,” returns to The Dallas Opera for the first time since his brilliant comic turn as the lovelorn Papageno in our 2006 production designed by the zany **Zandra Rhodes**.

With dozens of critically acclaimed recordings of operas and art songs and a concert career that spans several continents, Ms. Holzmair’s recent appearances on the opera stage include the role of Faninal in *Der Rosenkavalier* (Seattle, Hong Kong); Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* (Lyon, Toronto) and the Music Master in *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Madrid).

Committed to art and music education, Mr. Holzmair is a visiting professor and fellow of London’s Royal College of Music, gives frequent master classes in Europe and North America and has taught lied and oratorio at the Salzburg Mozarteum since 1998.

DIE FLEDERMAUS also stars **Chad Shelton** (the real-life husband of Ana María Martínez) as her lover, Alfred; baritone **Christopher Feigum** as Dr. Falke; soprano **Ava Pine** as Adele the maid; mezzo-soprano **Marianna Kulikova** as Prince Orlofsky; tenor **Tracy Wise** as Dr. Blind, Eisenstein's attorney; baritone **Scott Sikon** as Frank, the governor of the prison; and mezzo-soprano **Wendy Boyce** in her company debut as Sally.

Speaking parts include **Scott Quinn** as Ivan and **Grant Neale** in his Dallas Opera debut as Frosch, the jailer.

And, preparing to sweep us off our feet, are principal dancers **Jonathan Sharp** and **Lisa Gillespie** who made memorable solo appearances in *The Merry Widow*, choreographed by critically acclaimed choreographer/director **Candace Evans**.

The production design is by **Zack Brown** with lighting design by **Marie Barrett**. Wig and make-up design by **David Zimmerman**.

**The Dallas Opera Chorus** is prepared by Chorus Master **Alexander Rom**.

**Performances of DIE FLEDERMAUS will take place on Friday, December 5, 2008 at 7:30 pm; Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 2:00 pm, as well as December 10 and December 13, 2008 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](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:** 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 María Martínez (*Rosalinda*), Christopher Feigum (*Dr. Falke*), Ava Pine (*Adele*), Chad Shelton (*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:** Mark McCullough

**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:** Thomas Hase\*

**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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