



THE DALLAS OPERA
MEDIA ALERT

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THE DALLAS OPERA PRESENTS
The 08-09 Season Preview Weekend!

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**November 7-9, 2008**

DALLAS, OCTOBER 24, 2008 — **The Dallas Opera** will kick off the 2008-2009 Season in style, **Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**, with a weekend of special events designed to celebrate our season opener, Mozart's **THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO** (Nov. 14-22, 2008), and four more outstanding productions: **DIE FLEDERMAUS** (Dec. 5-13, 2008), **ROBERTO DEVEREUX** (Jan. 23-31, 2009), **LA BOHÈME** (Feb. 13-21, 2009) and **THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS** (March 6-14, 2009).

The Dallas Opera Season Preview weekend will begin Friday evening at 6:30 PM with a special lecture by the ever-popular **Dr. Stephen Dubberly**, head of the Opera program at the University of North Texas School of Music, on **THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO**. This event, hosted by and for The Dallas Opera's young professionals group, ***Amici di Opera*** (members are allowed to bring a guest, at no charge) will be held in the lobby of **One Arts Plaza**, our presenting sponsor for the highly successful "Figaro in Flip-Flops" series.

The fun continues all day **Saturday, November 8th at One Arts Plaza**, beginning with a presentation "**A Night in Old Spain**," featuring renowned arts and

**humanities lecturer Barbara Benac** at 10:30 AM followed by a Season Preview Panel at 11:15 AM; a **live performance on the Plaza** at 12:30 PM; Suzanne’s Bookclub, “The Librettist of Venice” about the life and times of Lorenzo Da Ponte at 1:00 PM; another live performance on the Plaza at 1:45 PM; the “State of the Union” with **new General Director George Steel** at 2:15 PM; and the big finish—**ballroom dance lessons on the Plaza** at 3:00 PM.

The Dallas Center for the Performing Arts is also offering **free tours** of the nearby **Preview Center** containing models of the new **Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House, the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre** and other center venues. The Preview Center is located in the Trammel Crow Center at 2001 Ross Avenue, Mezzanine Level.

Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 PM The Dallas Opera Guild will present the first **“Opera Insights”** of the season with singers, staff members and production personnel from THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO—engaged in a lively panel discussion at Gooch Auditorium on the campus of UT Southwestern Medical Center (use the Butler St. entrance off Inwood). The event is free to Guild and *Amici di Opera* members, \$10 for non-members. For information on joining the Guild, call 214.443.1040.

Also on Sunday, from 6:00 until 7:30 PM, The Dallas Opera will host an encore of one of our most popular tastings: Tapas and Spanish Wines at **Café Madrid, 4501 Travis St., Dallas, TX 75205**. For just \$15 per person, you can enjoy superb traditional Spanish fare accompanied by an outstanding selection of wines.

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.**

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

A subscription seat for all five productions ranges **from \$75 to \$1,020** and are on sale now. FLEX subscriptions (three performances of the patron’s choice) are available for as little as \$93. The first 500 subscribers for each performance also receive a free parking pass for the reserved parking areas.

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 (*Rosalinde*), 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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