



THE DALLAS OPERA
MEDIA ALERT

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THE DALLAS OPERA ANNOUNCES
**CHAD SHELTON JOINS CAST
OF *DIE FLEDERMAUS***

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**December 5-13, 2008, The Music Hall at Fair Park**

DALLAS, OCTOBER 22, 2008 — **The Dallas Opera** has announced that renowned Texas-born tenor **Chad Shelton** will sing the role of Alfred in the company's second production of the season, **DIE FLEDERMAUS**, by Johann Strauss II, opening in the Music Hall at Fair Park at **7:30 pm on Friday, December 5, 2008**.

Apparently, "where there's smoke, there's fire," as he will be portraying the reputed lover of Rosalinde, a role being sung by his **real-life wife, soprano Ana María Martínez!**

During the past season, Mr. Shelton appeared as E. Porter Alexander in the world premiere production of *Appomatox* by Philip Glass (San Francisco Opera), earned rave reviews as Tamino in *The Magic Flute* (Grand Théâtre de Genève, Opera Pacific), sang Alfredo in *La traviata* at Arizona Opera and returned to Opéra National de Lorraine in Nancy, France as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Mr. Shelton, who made his Dallas Opera debut as a memorable Jaquino in our landmark 2002 production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, has been hailed by *Opera News* for his unfailing ability to tackle "high-flying tessitura without even a flicker of strain" and by the *Rocky Mountain News* for a voice that "rang with assurance and accuracy."

Additional performances this season include the title role in *Idomeneo* with Opéra National de Lorraine, Lysander for his debut with the Théâtre de Caen, the role of Jim Casey in *The Grapes of Wrath* at Opera Pacific, Alfredo in *La traviata* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City and the Duke in *Rigoletto* at Portland Opera (OR).

A frequent performer with Houston Grand Opera, Mr. Shelton created the role of Laurie in Mark Adamo's *Little Women* telecast on PBS and the role of Ulises in the world premiere of Daniel Catán's *Salsipuedes*.

Other highlights include the role of Leo in Mark Blitzstein's *Regina* at Lyric Opera of Chicago and Florida Grand Opera; Belmonte in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* for Opera Australia (Patrick Summers conducting); and Laurie in *Little Women* at New York City Opera, Central City Opera, Opera Omaha, and Chautauqua Opera.

He performed the role of Tom Rakewell in *The Rake's Progress* and Ferrando in Granados' *Goyescas* for Lyric Opera of Kansas City and made several appearances with Central City Opera including Reverend Paris in *The Crucible*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and Cavaradossi in *Tosca*. His many leading roles at Houston Grand Opera have run the gamut from Janek in *The Makropolous Case* to Captain Vere in *Billy Budd*.

Mr. Shelton is a recipient of a Richard Tucker Foundation Career Grant and a Richard F. Gold Career Grant. He also holds a Master of Music degree and Artist Diploma from the Yale University School of Music.

Tenor Bruce Ford, originally scheduled to sing the role of Alfred, was forced to withdraw due to illness. Mr. Shelton was able to obtain a release from performances of Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in France in order to join The Dallas Opera cast.

### **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. The first 500 subscribers for each performance also receive a free purple parking pass.

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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