



**THE DALLAS OPERA  
MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Monday, February 2, 2009**

Contact: Suzanne Calvin

214-443-1014/suzannec@dallasopera.org

**THE DALLAS OPERA IS HONORED TO PRESENT  
THE INAUGURAL SEASON IN  
THE WINSPEAR OPERA HOUSE**

~~~~~  
**2009-2010 SEASON OPENS WITH VERDI'S "OTELLO," OCTOBER 23RD**  
~~~~~

DALLAS, FEBRUARY 2, 2009 – **The Dallas Opera** is extraordinarily proud to announce new details about the glittering **2009-2010 Inaugural Season** in the **Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts**.

The **53<sup>rd</sup> International Season, "We'll Have You Seeing Red!"** will commence on the evening of **Friday, October 23, 2009 at 7:30 PM** when the City of Dallas will become home to the world's newest opera house and the must-see arts destination of the year, the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts.

The Dallas Opera's first season in the Winspear Opera House will consist of five outstanding productions. The works include Giuseppe Verdi's *Otello*, conducted by **Dallas Opera Music Director Graeme Jenkins**, which will open the new opera house to the public on the evening of **Friday, October 23, 2009**.

It will be followed by W.A. Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in February of 2010; Gaetano Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* in February/March; **Jake Heggie's *Moby-Dick* (a Dallas Opera world premiere)** opening in late April of 2010 and Giacomo Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* to close the 2009-2010 Season in May of 2010.

The inaugural production in the Winspear Opera House, Giuseppe Verdi's 1887 masterpiece, *Otello* stars tenors **Clifton Forbis** in the title role (with **Allan Glassman** singing one performance on October 25<sup>th</sup>), Georgian baritone **Lado Ataneli** as the villainous "Iago," and in her American debut, acclaimed German soprano **Annette Dasch** as the wrongly accused "Desdemona."

*Otello* will take centerstage in a **new Dallas Opera production** directed by **Tim Albery**.

Additionally, this powerful production will feature the renowned talents of tenor **Sean Panikkar** in his Dallas Opera debut as "Cassio," bass Mark McCrory as "Montano," mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth Turnbull** as "Emilia," and bass **Raymond Aceto** as "Lodovico."

*Otello* will be conducted by **Dallas Opera Music Director Graeme Jenkins** with chorus preparation by **Chorus Master Alexander Rom**.

The production design (sets and costumes) is by **Anthony Baker** with lighting design by **Thomas C. Hase**.

*Otello* will open **Friday, October 23, 2009 at 7:30 PM in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. Additional performances are scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 PM, October 28 & 31 and November 5 at 7:30 PM. Also, November 8, 2009 at 2:00 PM (2<sup>nd</sup> matinee).**

The second production of the 2009-2010 Season is a brilliant comedy of the sexes, *Così fan tutte* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Conducted by Dallas Opera Music Director Graeme Jenkins, the opera will star **Sir Thomas Allen** as "Don Alfonso," **Nuccia Focile** as "Despina" and a quartet of exciting Mozartians as the young lovers: soprano **Elza van den Heever** in her Dallas Opera debut as "Fiordiligi," mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Holloway** (an adorable "Cherubino" in this season's *The Marriage of Figaro*) as "Dorabella," tenor **Brian Anderson** in the role of "Ferrando" and baritone **Michael Todd Simpson** (who delighted us as "Count Almaviva") in the role of "Guglielmo."

*Così fan tutte* is scheduled to open **Friday, February 12, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. Subsequent performances are scheduled for Sunday, February 14 at 2:00 PM, February 18, 20 & 26 at 7:30 PM and February 28, 2010 at 2:00 PM (2<sup>nd</sup> matinee).**

Our third production, Gaetano Donizetti's sly and sophisticated *Don Pasquale*. This 1843 masterpiece boasts the American debut of Slovakian soprano **Adriana Kucerova** as "Norina," Dallas favorites **Donato DiStefano** as "Don Pasquale" and baritone heart-throb **Nathan Gunn** as "Dr. Malatesta." "Ernesto" will be sung by tenor **Norman Shankle** in his Dallas Opera debut.

Donizetti's charmer will be conducted by **Maestro Stefano Ranzani** in his first appearance with The Dallas Opera, and staged by **Candace Evans**, who dazzled us with her production of *The Merry Widow* in 2007. The production design is by **Jean-Pierre Ponnelle** with lighting design by **Duane Schuler**.

The Dallas Opera Chorus will be prepared by **Chorus Master Alexander Rom**.

***Don Pasquale* opens Friday, February 19, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. Additional performances will take place on Sunday, February 21 at 2:00 PM, February 24, 27 and March 5 at 7:30 PM, and Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 2:00 PM (2<sup>nd</sup> matinee).**

Our fourth production of the inaugural season, the world premiere of *Moby-Dick* will star the acclaimed tenor, **Ben Heppner**, in the pivotal role of "Captain Ahab" with rising stars **Morgan Smith** as "Starbuck" and **Stephen Costello** as "Ishmael."

Composer **Jake Heggie**, best known for his masterpiece, *Dead Man Walking* (2000, with Terrence McNally), one of the most frequently performed contemporary operas in the world, will create a brand-new work based on a landmark of 19<sup>th</sup> century American fiction: **Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*** (1851). The recipient of a 2005/06 Guggenheim Fellowship, Mr. Heggie has composed more than 200 songs, in addition to concerti, orchestral works and chamber music.

The librettist, Gene Scheer, who has worked with Jake Heggie on other operas, collaborated with composer Tobias Picker on The Dallas Opera's 2001 world premiere production of *Thérèse Raquin* (available on Chandos and cited by *Opera News* as one of the ten best classical recordings of 2002) and, again, in 2005 on *An American Tragedy* for the Metropolitan Opera.

This collaboration will mark the fourth time that Maestro Patrick Summers, who also serves as Music Director of Houston Grand Opera, has conducted a Jake Heggie world premiere. Previously, he wielded the baton for *Dead Man Walking* and *The End of the Affair*, as well as the world premiere of *Three Decembers (Last Acts)* in February of 2008.

This new work will be staged by the Tony-nominated director of *Thurgood* and *Master Class*: **Leonard Foglia**.

In addition to Mr. Heppner, Mr. Smith and Mr. Costello, the other stars of this much-anticipated world premiere include bass-baritone **Jonathan Lemalu** in his Dallas Opera debut as “Queequeg;” tenor Allan Glassman as “Flask;” baritone **Robert Orth** in his company debut as “Stubb;” and soprano **Talise Trevigne** in the role of “Pip” and baritone **Jonathan Beyer** as “Captain Gardiner” in their Dallas Opera debuts.

The Scenic Designer is Tony Award-winning Dallas native **Michael Yeargan**. Costume design is by **Jane Greenwood** (nominated a record fifteen times for the Tony Award) with lighting design by Tony Award-winner **Donald Holder**—both making their company debuts.

*Moby-Dick* is a co-commission and co-production with **San Francisco Opera**, **San Diego Opera** and **Calgary Opera**. It will mark the first collaboration between composer Jake Heggie and The Dallas Opera.

***Moby-Dick* will receive its world premiere Friday, April 30, 2010 at 7:30 PM with subsequent performances scheduled for May 2 (2:00 PM matinee), 5, 8 & 13 at 7:30 PM. Also, Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM (2<sup>nd</sup> matinee).**

**Single tickets for the world premiere production of *Moby-Dick* will go on sale later this year.**

In the wake of the world premiere production of *Moby-Dick*, The Dallas Opera will present a four-hanky season finale: Giacomo Puccini’s 1901 tale of devotion and betrayal and one of the most popular operas in the repertoire: ***Madame Butterfly***.

Romanian soprano **Adina Nitescu** (a volatile Queen Elizabeth I in The Dallas Opera’s *Mary Queen of Scots*) will return as Puccini’s fragile geisha, “Cio-Cio-San” in this **Francesco Zambello** production. Dashing American tenor **Brandon Jovanovich**, who moved Dallas audiences to tears as “Macduff” in the 2007 production of Verdi’s *Macbeth*, returns to our stage as the caddish “Lieutenant Pinkerton.”

Baritone **James Westman** appears as the sympathetic “Sharpless;” mezzo-soprano **Maria Zifchak** makes her company debut as the loyal “Suzuki;” tenor **David Cangelosi** as the marriage broker, “Goro;” bass **Young-Bok Kim** in his Dallas Opera debut as “The Bonze” and baritone **Yungbae Yang** making his company bow as the honorable “Prince Yamadori.”

Director **Garnett Bruce** will stage the work, conducted by **Dallas Opera Music Director Graeme Jenkins**. Scenic design is by multiple Tony Award winner **Michael Yeorgan**, costume design by **Anita Yavich** and lighting design by **Alan Burrett**.

The outstanding Dallas Opera Chorus will be prepared by **Chorus Master Alexander Rom**.

*Madame Butterfly* will open **Friday, May 7, 2010 at 7:30 PM** in the **Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts**. Subsequent performances are scheduled for **Sunday, May 9 at 2:00 PM, May 12, 15 & 20 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 2:00 PM (2<sup>nd</sup> matinee)**

For tickets and information, call The Dallas Opera Ticket Services Office at **214-443-1000** or visit us online at [www.dallasopera.org](http://www.dallasopera.org).

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 2009-2010 SEASON:**

Sections are selling out fast for the inaugural season in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House. Current season subscribers (Full or FLEX) and donors receive exclusive pre-sale access to purchase seats in the new house before they go on sale to the general public in July of 2009. A subscription seat for all five Dallas Opera productions in the 2009-2010 Season ranges **from \$75 to \$1,875**.

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

*Cast members, dates, prices and repertoire may be subject to change.*

INFORMATION ABOUT "JANUARY AT THE DALLAS OPERA"  
IS CONVENIENTLY AVAILABLE ONLINE  
VISIT [WWW.DALLASOPERA.ORG](http://WWW.DALLASOPERA.ORG) AND CHECK THE CALENDAR LISTINGS

*For high-resolution, digital photographs suitable for print*

*To arrange an interview*

*Or for additional information*

*Please contact Assoc. Dir. Of Marketing Suzanne Calvin*

214.443.1014 or [suzannec@dallasopera.org](mailto:suzannec@dallasopera.org)

**THE DALLAS OPERA 2009-2010 SEASON INFORMATION:**

The Dallas Opera celebrates its Fifty-Third International Season with 30 performances of five productions in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. 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 devices are available for the hearing impaired.

**OTELLO by Giuseppe Verdi**

**October 23, 25(m), 28 & 31, November 5 & 8(m), 2009**

**A new Dallas Opera production to inaugurate the Winspear Opera House!**

An opera in four acts first performed at Milan's Teatro alla Scala, February 5, 1887.

Text by Arrigo Boito after William Shakespeare's tragedy, *Otello*, or *The Moor of Venice*.

**Time:** the 15<sup>th</sup> century

**Place:** The island of Cyprus

**Conductor:** Graeme Jenkins

**Stage Director:** Tim Albery\*

**Production Design:** Anthony Baker\*

**Lighting Design:** Thomas C. Hase

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

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Starring:** Clifton Forbis (*Otello*), Allan Glassman (*Otello*, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>) Annette Dasch\*\* (*Desdemona*), Lado Ataneli\* (*Iago*), Sean Panikkar\* (*Cassio*), Elizabeth Turnbull (Emilia), Mark McCrory (*Montano*), and Raymond Aceto (*Lodovico*)

**COSÌ FAN TUTTE by W.A. Mozart**

**February 12, 14(m), 18, 20, 26 & 28(m), 2010**

**One of the world's greatest composers on the subject of love!**

An opera in two acts first performed in Vienna's Burgtheater, January 26, 1790.

Text by Lorenzo Da Ponte.

**Time:** 18<sup>th</sup> century

**Place:** Naples, Italy

**Conductor:** Graeme Jenkins

**Stage Director:** John Cox

**Production Design:** Robert Perdziola\*

**Lighting Designer:** Duane Schuler

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

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Starring:** Elza van den Heever\* (*Fiordiligi*), Jennifer Holloway (*Dorabella*), Michael Todd Simpson (Guglielmo), Brian Anderson (*Ferrando*), Sir Thomas Allen\* (*Don Alfonso*) and Nuccia Focile (*Despina*).

**DON PASQUALE by Gaetano Donizetti**

**February 19, 21(m), 24, 27, March 5 & 7(m), 2010**

**Production from Los Angeles Opera**

A comic opera in three acts first performed in Paris' Théâtre Italien, January 3, 1843.

Text by Giovanni Ruffini and the composer after Angelo Anelli's libretto for Stefano Pavesi's *Ser Marcantonio*.

**Time:** mid-19<sup>th</sup> century

**Place:** Rome, Italy

**Conductor:** Stefano Ranzani\*

**Stage Director:** Candace Evans

**Production Design:** Jean-Pierre Ponnelle

**Lighting Design:** Duane Schuler

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

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Starring:** Donato Di Stefano (*Don Pasquale*), Adriana Kucerova\*\* (*Norina*), Nathan Gunn (*Dr. Malatesta*) and Norman Shankle\* (*Ernesto*).

**MOBY-DICK by Jake Heggie (World Premiere!)**

**April 30, May 2(m), 5, 8, 13 & 16(m), 2010**

**A new Dallas Opera co-production with San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera and Calgary Opera  
World Premiere Performances**

An opera in two acts

Text by Gene Sheer after Herman Melville's novel, Moby-Dick

**Time:** the 19<sup>th</sup> century

**Place:** The South Seas

**Conductor:** Patrick Summers

**Stage Director:** Leonard Foglia\*

**Scenic Design:** Michael Yeargan

**Costume Design:** Jane Greenwood\*

**Lighting Design:** Donald Holder\*

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

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Starring:** Ben Heppner\* (*Captain Ahab*), Morgan Smith\* (*Starbuck*) Stephen Costello (*Ishmael*), Jonathan Lemalu\* (*Queequeg*), Allan Glassman (*Flask*), Robert Orth\* (*Stubb*), Talise Trevigne\* (*Pip*) and Jonathan Beyer\* (*Captain Gardiner*).

**MADAME BUTTERFLY by Giacomo Puccini**

**May 7, 9(m), 12, 15, 20 & 23(m), 2010**

**A Francesca Zambello Production!**

An opera in two acts first performed at Milan's Teatro alla Scala, February 17, 1904.

Text by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica after David Belasco's play *Madame Butterfly*, based on a short story by John Luther Long.

**Time:** Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Place:** Nagasaki, Japan

**Conductor:** Graeme Jenkins

**Stage Director:** Garnett Bruce

**Production:** Francesca Zambello

**Scenic Design:** Michael Yeargan

**Costume Design:** Anita Yavich

**Lighting Design:** Alan Burrett

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

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Starring:** Adina Nitescu (*Cio-Cio San*), Brandon Jovanovich (*B.F. Pinkerton*), James Westman (*Sharpless*), Maria Zifchak\* (*Suzuki*), David Cangelosi (*Goro*), Young-Bok Kim\* (*The Bonze*) and Yungbae Yang\* (*Prince Yamadori*).

\* Dallas Opera Debut

\*\* American Debut

**Ticket Information for the Current 2008-2009 Dallas Opera Season**

**FLEX subscriptions (3 shows of your choice) begin at \$93. Single tickets \$15 to \$199, if purchased in advance. Group ticket sales may be made at a substantial discount. For more information, contact The Dallas Opera Ticket Services Office at 214.443.1000 or visit TDO's web site at [dallasopera.org](http://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.

### **(Second half of Season:)**

#### **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:** 19<sup>th</sup> century

**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

---

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*. The Dallas Opera's 2008-2009 Season honors Board Member **Joyce Mitchell**.

###