



THE DALLAS OPERA  
MEDIA RELEASE

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THE DALLAS OPERA IS PROUD TO PRESENT

# Artistic Director Jonathan Pell

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## Long-time Director of Artistic Administration Promoted to New Position

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DALLAS, APRIL 7, 2009 – **The Dallas Opera** has announced the promotion of **Director of Artistic Administration Jonathan Pell** to serve as **Artistic Director of The Dallas Opera**, a position last held by **Maestro Nicola Rescigno**, one of the company’s esteemed co-founders.

Mr. Pell, who came to The Dallas Opera 24 years ago from WNET/Thirteen in New York City where he worked as coordinating producer for music programming, will assume his new title and responsibilities, effective immediately.

“This promotion,” explains **Dallas Opera President Dr. Kern Wildenthal**, “is timed to coincide with final preparations for our move into the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts, and to aid the company in meeting the unique challenges we face at this pivotal point in our history.”

“The artistic demands on The Dallas Opera will expand dramatically in the seasons to come,” Mr. Wildenthal continues, “as we attract the world’s most important artists, broaden our repertoire and utilize every new technological advance to create one-of-a-kind entertainment experiences for North Texas—and international—audiences.

“In an industry that thrives on extraordinary performers, Jonathan has consistently demonstrated the artistic integrity, business acumen and day-to-day personal commitment that makes him one of the best in the business.”

In his new position, Pell will create an even more dynamic working partnership with **Music Director Graeme Jenkins** as The Dallas Opera prepares to launch its inaugural season in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. His increased responsibilities will include the eventual expansion and restructuring of The Dallas Opera’s “Young Artists Program” to make it a more integral part of the company’s current mission and our firm commitment to future generations of opera audiences.

Mr. Pell frequently appears as a speaker on a variety of opera related topics, and for several years hosted *The Dallas Opera Radio Hour*, heard on Sunday afternoons on WRR.FM, and is a frequent guest on that station’s *Inside The Dallas Opera*. He has also hosted *The Dallas Opera Guild Insights* program since 1985, and in that capacity has interviewed such luminaries as Renee Fleming, Denyce Graves, Jerry Hadley, James Morris, Samuel Ramey, Ruth Ann Swenson, Carol Vaness, Veronica Villarroel and Frederica von Stade.

Mr. Pell has presented Master Classes on “The Art of the Audition” to various organizations, including Opera America, the International School of the Performing Arts, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the Performing Arts Assistance Corporation of New York, the Canadian Opera Company, the Amarillo Opera, Southern Methodist University and the University of North Texas.

“Jonathan has a casting gift that is second to none,” says **Interim General Director John T. Cody, Jr.** “He has played an especially significant role in the success of the past two seasons by creating one unforgettable ensemble cast after another. Acting with guts, intelligence and perception, Jonathan has shown he isn’t afraid to defy convention and—in the process—surpass our highest expectations.

“With his taste, talent and wide-ranging expertise,” adds Mr. Cody, “Jonathan Pell has proven himself to be one of The Dallas Opera’s greatest assets. The initial reaction of Dallas Opera Board members has been overwhelmingly positive, because everyone recognizes this is as a promotion that is both beneficial for the opera company and extraordinarily well-deserved.”

In demand as a judge for vocal competitions, Pell has served in that capacity for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions; the Luciano Pavarotti Competition; the Richard Tucker Music Foundation; the Bidu Sayao Competition in Belem, Brazil; the Ottavio Ziino Competition in Rome, Italy; the Center for Contemporary Opera Competition; the Jensen Foundation Competition; the George London Grants; the Young Patronesses of the Opera Competition in Miami; and the Marguerite McCammon Competition in Fort Worth; as well as for the Denver Lyric Opera Guild, the San Antonio Opera Guild and The Dallas Opera Guild.

Mr. Pell is on the board of directors of the Richard Tucker Music Foundation, where he serves as Chairman of their national auditions committee. He also served for a decade on the board of the prestigious ARIA Awards and as an advisor to Opera America’s Singer Services Committee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT “APRIL 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*

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### **Ticket Information for the 2009-2010 Dallas Opera Season**

**Subscriptions for the inaugural season in the new Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts start at just \$75 and are currently on sale to the general public – online only – at [dallasopera.org](http://dallasopera.org). For more information, contact The Dallas Opera Ticket Services Office at 214.443.1000.**

## **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 in downtown Dallas. Evening performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees will begin at 2:00 p.m. English translations will be projected above the stage at every performance. Assistance is 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-commission, co-production with San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera, Calgary Opera and The State Opera of South Australia**

**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 Nătescu (*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

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