



PRESS RELEASE

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“OPERA IN THE PARK – 2011”

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Opera Providence celebrates its Eighth Season of Free Outdoor Concerts in July

July 1, 2011: Providence, RI – Prepare for the beauty and art of opera in a romantic setting in one of Providence’s neighborhood parks with **“Opera in the Park – 2011.”** This entertaining series of free concerts is presented by Opera Providence. Opera lovers will delight in four free music-filled evenings highlighting favorites from opera, operetta and musical theatre. The Neighborhood Performing Arts Initiative continues to support this series in conjunction with the Providence Department of Art, Culture and Tourism, the City of Providence, Mayor Angel Taveras, and Councilman Nicholas Narducci from the Charles Street/Branch Avenue neighborhood. Each **“Opera in the Park”** performance will delight and entertain audiences of all musical interests. Opera Providence’s **“Opera in the Park”** series celebrates a wide range of musical styles and showcases fabulous singers from the region.

The **“Opera in the Park – 2011”** series shows the power of the arts to fuel tourism and the revitalization and development of our neighborhoods. Once again, locals and tourists alike will have the opportunity to enjoy the amazing voices of Opera Providence in a true neighborhood setting in Hopkins Park at the intersection of Charles Street and Branch Avenue, highlighting St. Ann’s Church and Square.

It is impressive that this summer series has attracted more than 3200 people from RI, CT and MA to various locations throughout the City of Providence. The atmosphere is festive, the neighborhood is welcoming, and the music superb! **“Opera in the Park – 2011”** opens on Sunday, July 10th at 5:00pm. and continues for the next three Sundays: July 17th, July 25th, and July 31st.

“Opera in the Park – 2011” is hosted by members of the **Opera Providence Board of Directors** and is under the artistic direction of Rene de la Garza. The series features exceptional talent from the region as well as new and emerging local talent.

PROGRAM AND CASTS:

JULY 10th: “Chacun a sont gout!”

featuring:

Rebecca Cunha, soprano
Celia Tafuri, soprano
Kathryne Jennings, soprano
Frederic Scheff, tenor
Paul Soper, baritone
Michael Kregler, piano

JULY 17th: “Italian Favorites”

featuring:

Dalita Getzoyan, flute
Andrea Lara, soprano
David Lara, baritone
Michael-Paul Krubitzer, tenor
Michael Kregler, piano

JULY 24th: “OPERA TO BROADWAY”

featuring:

Erin Maughan, soprano
Billy Ray Poli, tenor
Kara Lund, soprano
Georgette Ross Hutchins, mezzo-soprano
Giovanni Formisano, tenor
Michael Kregler, piano

JULY 31ST: “ASPECTS OF LOVE”

featuring:

Leah Kenney, soprano
Alexis Clare McKinnon, soprano
Norma Caiazza, soprano
Diedre Donovan, mezzo-soprano
Rene de la Garza, baritone
Michael Kregler, piano

Background:

Opera Providence engages and inspires audiences through opera as the ultimate theater experience of music. Over the last twelve years, OP has enjoyed rave reviews for its performances of *La Boheme*, *Carmen*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Rigoletto*, *Cinderella*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Opera2Broadway*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Fiesta de la Zarzuela*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Cavalleria rusticana*, *Suor Angelica*, *Opera Spectacular*, *Maria de Buenos Aires*, *Don*

Pasquale, Michelangelo, The Italian Lesson, Bon Appetite, Treemonisha, Die Fledermaus, and Cosi fan tutte.

Opera Providence is led by President Dr. Robert A. DeRobbio and a dedicated Board of Directors, with additional assistance from Opera Providence volunteers. **Opera Providence** received the 2007 **Jabez Gorham Award for Artistic Excellence**, is a full company member of **Opera America** and was chosen as "**Best Cultural Secret**" in 2002 by **Rhode Island Monthly** magazine.

In addition to this fabulous Sunday Concert Series **Opera Providence** will be performing for the feast of St. Ann on July 30th, 2011. In recognition of this feast **Opera Providence** will perform a full production of *Cavalleria Rusticana* in St. Ann's Church, at the intersection of Charles Street and Branch Avenue, Providence, at 7:00pm. Tickets for this great evening are available by calling the **Opera Providence** office at 331-6060, at a cost of \$22.00 per person. **Opera Providence** will also be performing at Water Fire on Saturday, August 27th. On this special evening the River Walk will be lined with over 30 **Opera Providence** sopranos and mezzo-sopranos for a truly delightful evening of song. Please check our web site for further details on this Water Fire performance.

**For more information call Opera Providence at 401-331-6060.
www.operaprovidence.org**

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