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Madison Opera's 2011-2012 Season to Feature Three Company Premieres

Season includes the Tchaikovsky masterpiece *Eugene Onegin*, a new production of Philip Glass' *Galileo Galilei*, and Rossini's bel canto comedy *Cinderella*

Madison, Wis. – Madison Opera announced plans today for the company's 51st season, which will feature three company premieres and the annual summer concert, Opera in the Park. Highlights include the company's first Tchaikovsky opera, *Eugene Onegin*, and a new production of Philip Glass' *Galileo Galilei* to mark the iconic American composer's 75th birthday. A production of Rossini's *Cinderella* (*La Cenerentola*) updated to 1930s Hollywood will close the mainstage season.

"This is an exciting and important season for Madison Opera, one that builds on our tradition of expanding the operatic repertoire while engaging subscribers and new audiences alike," said Madison Opera Artistic Director John DeMain.

Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* will open the new season in Overture Hall on Nov. 4 and 6, 2011. The opera tells of the country girl Tatiana and her youthful love for the mysterious and worldly Eugene Onegin. While she dreams of passion, her love instead brings rejection and triggers the undoing of her family in this epic drama based on the novel by Alexander Pushkin. Baritone **Hyung Yun** and soprano **Maria Kanyova** return to Madison Opera in the roles of Eugene Onegin and Tatiana, with Wisconsin-native and acclaimed tenor **Scott Ramsay** making his Madison Opera debut as Vladimir Lenski. **Candace Evans** returns to direct the production, with **John DeMain** conducting.

Galileo Galilei, an opera by Philip Glass, will be produced in The Playhouse at Overture from Jan. 26 to 29, 2012, just days before the composer's 75th birthday. Featuring Glass' trademark minimalist style, the opera traces the life of the famed astronomer Galileo Galilei, beginning with his final days—blind and defeated by the Inquisition—and ending in his youth, as an audience member witnessing an opera by his father. Renowned tenor **William Joyner** stars in the title role, with soprano **Jamie-Rose Guarrine** returning to Madison Opera as Marie Celeste. Baritone **John Arnold** debuts as the Young Galileo. **A. Scott Parry** returns to direct this new production, and **Kelly Kuo** conducts. *Galileo Galilei* premiered at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago in 2002.

Rossini's Italian take on the classic fairy tale *Cinderella* will be presented in Overture Hall on Apr. 27 and 29, 2012. In Madison Opera's production by director **Garnett Bruce**, the action is updated to the swinging Palace Pictures studio of 1930's Hollywood, where the put-upon maid Angelina soon finds herself the star of her very own rags to riches tale. Rising star mezzo-soprano **Daniela Mack** makes her Madison Opera debut in the title role. Tenor **Gregory Schmidt** returns as her Prince Charming, Don Ramiro, and Grammy Award-winning baritone **Daniel Belcher** makes his Madison Opera debut as Dandini. **John DeMain** conducts.

Subscriptions for the 2011-2012 Season are now available online at www.madisonopera.org and by phone at (608) 238-8085. New subscribers save 15%. Please contact Director of Marketing and Community Engagement Brian Hinrichs at hinrichs@madisonopera.org or (608) 238-8085 for press images or for more information.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

Eugene Onegin

Friday, Nov. 4, 2011 • 8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011 • 2:30 p.m.

Overture Hall

Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Libretto by Konstantin Shilovsky and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Based on the novel by Alexander Pushkin

Sung in Russian with projected English translations

Tatiana.....Maria Kanyova (*Madama Butterfly*, 2008)

Eugene Onegin.....Hyung Yun (*Carmen*, 2009 and *Faust*, 2009)

Vladimir Lenski.....Scott Ramsay*

Filipievna.....Jane Shaulis*

Madame Larina.....Julia Faulkner (*The Turn of the Screw*, 2010 and *The Tender Land*, 2008)

Prince Gremin.....Harold Wilson (*Carmen*, 2009)

Conductor: John DeMain (Artistic Director)

Stage Director: Candace Evans (*Carmen*, 2009)

Sets and costumes originally created for Vancouver Opera

*Madison Opera debut

Galileo Galilei

Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012 • 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 27, 2012 • 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012 • 8 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012 • 2:30 p.m.

The Playhouse

Music by Philip Glass

Libretto by Mary Zimmerman with Philip Glass and Arnold Weinstein

Sung in English

Galileo Galilei.....William Joyner*

Young Galileo.....John Arnold*

Marie Celeste, the Younger.....Jamie-Rose Guarrine (*Tosca*, 2005)

Conductor: Kelly Kuo (*Così fan Tutte*, 2009)
Stage Director: A. Scott Parry (*The Marriage of Figaro*, 2010)
Original production

*Madison Opera debut

Cinderella

Friday, Apr. 27, 2012 • 8 p.m.
Sunday, Apr. 29, 2012 • 2:30 p.m.
Overture Hall

Music by Gioachino Rossini
Libretto by Jacopo Ferretti
Sung in Italian with projected English translations

Angelina (Cinderella).....Daniela Mack*
Don Ramiro.....Gregory Schmidt (*The Flying Dutchman*, 2010 and *The Turn of the Screw*, 2010)
Dandini.....Daniel Belcher*
Don Magnifico.....Steven Condy*
Alidoro.....Matthew Burns*
Clorinda.....Amy Mahoney (*Carmen*, 2009)

Conductor: John DeMain (Artistic Director)
Stage Director: Garnett Bruce (*La Traviata*, 2011)
Sets and costumes originally created for Kansas City Lyric Opera

*Madison Opera debut

Madison Opera's Opera in the Park 2012

Saturday, July 21, 2012 • 8 p.m.
A Madison Summer Tradition
Garner Park | Free Admission

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Madison Opera was founded in 1961 and celebrated its 50th anniversary during the 2010-2011 Season. Known as a leading regional company in the U.S., Madison Opera annually presents three fully staged productions in addition to the free summer concert Opera in the Park and a variety of educational programs through the Creating OPERAtunities initiative. For more information, please visit www.madisonopera.org and consider staying in touch on Twitter or Facebook.