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**MADISON OPERA CELEBRATES 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
DURING 2010-11 SEASON**

**Perennial favorites and new repertoire honor company history**

Mozart's	Weill's	Verdi's	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
<b><i>The Marriage of Figaro</i></b>	<b><i>The Threepenny Opera</i></b>	<b><i>La Traviata</i></b>	<b><i>Opera in the Park</i></b>
Nov. 5 & 7, 2010	Feb. 4 – 13, 2011	Apr. 29 & May 1, 2011	July 16, 2011
Overture Hall	The Playhouse	Overture Hall	Garner Park

Madison, Wis. – Madison Opera is excited to announce its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, featuring Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, the company premiere of Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera*, and Verdi's *La Traviata*. In July 2011, Madison Opera also celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Opera in the Park*, a Madison Summer Tradition.

"Our programming for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season reflects both Madison Opera's history and future," says General Director Allan Naplan. He continued, "From audience favorites to a company premiere, between opera and musical theater, plus some very exciting casting, it is a celebration season that should have wide appeal in our community and beyond."

For the fourth consecutive season, Madison Opera presents three full productions, with an increase in performances from eight (2009-10) to ten (2010-11). The Opera will also be performing in The Playhouse for the second season, following the recent artistic and box-office success of *The Turn of the Screw*, the company's first endeavor in the venue. Naplan adds, "We've enjoyed producing our mid-season repertoire in Overture's smaller venues over the past three years. These productions allow us to explore more adventurous and ambitious repertoire, while providing our audience a unique and intimate experience."

Casting highlights for the 2010-11 Season include bass Jason Hardy as Figaro and soprano Anya Matanovic as Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*; the Madison Opera debuts of American Players Theatre favorites James DeVita and Tracy Michelle Arnold in *The Threepenny Opera*; and the American debut of Italian tenor Giuseppe Varano as Alfredo in *La Traviata*. Maestro John DeMain conducts all three productions, with leading opera directors A. Scott Parry, Dorothy Danner, and Garnett Bruce providing stage direction.

Subscriptions for the 2010-11 Season are now available, starting at \$32 for the Overture Hall Series. New subscribers receive an additional 15% off. On Monday, April 12, Madison Opera launches a re-designed website featuring online subscriptions. Call (608) 238-8085 or visit madisonopera.org for more subscription information.

To receive production photos and headshots for the 2010-2011 Season, e-mail hinrichs@madisonopera.org.

## **SEASON DETAILS**

### ***The Marriage of Figaro***

**By W.A. Mozart**

**Nov. 5 & 7, 2010**

**Overture Hall**

Figaro and Susanna are set to be married, but Count Almaviva has plans of his own. At the end of the day, who will cut the cake? Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* turns one day of madness into comic gold, all set to the composer's brilliant, shimmering score. Madison Opera assembles an unbeatable cast for the opening of its 50th Anniversary Season, with Jason Hardy starring as Figaro, fresh off of rave reviews for his performance in New York City Opera's *Don Giovanni*. The radiant Anya Matanovic sings Susanna and Melody Moore (*Opera in the Park*, 2008) returns as the Countess. Metropolitan Opera baritone Jeff Mattsey sings the Count. Maestro John DeMain conducts, with stage direction by A. Scott Parry in a production from New York City Opera.

*Sung in Italian with projected English translations*

Figaro: Jason Hardy

Susanna: Anya Matanovic

Count Almaviva: Jeff Mattsey

Countess Almaviva: Melody Moore

Conductor: John DeMain

Director: A. Scott Parry

Featuring the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Madison Opera Chorus

### ***The Threepenny Opera***

**By Kurt Weill**

**Feb. 4 – 13, 2011**

**The Playhouse**

Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* follows the travails of the notorious criminal Macheath as he navigates a world of beggars, thieves, and prostitutes in Victorian London. With music deeply rooted in jazz and Viennese operetta, Weill's provocative setting of Bertolt Brecht's gritty drama has enchanted audiences for the last century. American Players Theatre favorites James DeVita and Tracy Michelle Arnold make their Madison Opera debuts as Macheath and Jenny Diver in this company premiere. With such memorable numbers as "The Ballad of Mack the Knife" and "Pirate Jenny," this new production, led by conductor John DeMain and acclaimed stage director Dorothy Danner, is sure to leave its mark.

*Sung in English*

Macheath: James DeVita  
Jenny Diver: Tracy Michelle Arnold

Conductor: John DeMain  
Director: Dorothy Danner

***La Traviata***  
**By Giuseppe Verdi**  
**Apr. 29 & May 1, 2011**  
**Overture Hall**

A free-spirited courtesan is tamed by true love, but for how long? The tragic tale of Violetta Valery and Alfredo Germont has mesmerized opera audiences for decades with some of Verdi's most recognizable music and transfixing characters. *La Traviata* brings the 2010-11 mainstage season to a close in a lavish production with sets from the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Elizabeth Caballero (*Carmen*, 2009) returns to Madison as Violetta after recent performances in the role had *Opera News* calling her "an excellent heroine...commanding and vulnerable by turns." The young Italian tenor Giuseppe Varano makes his US debut as Alfredo, with Donnie Ray Albert (*Opera in the Park*, 2005) as Giorgio Germont. Maestro John DeMain conducts, with stage direction by Garnett Bruce. Raise a toast as we celebrate 50 years of opera in Madison...*"Libiamo, libiamo!"*

*Sung in Italian with projected English translations*

Violetta Valery: Elizabeth Caballero  
Alfredo Germont: Giuseppe Varano  
Giorgio Germont: Donnie Ray Albert

Conductor: John DeMain  
Director: Garnett Bruce

Featuring the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Madison Opera Chorus

***Opera in the Park 2011: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***  
**A Madison Summer Tradition**  
**July 16, 2011**  
**Garner Park**

A Madison summer tradition, this free outdoor concert features today's leading opera stars alongside the talents of the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Madison Opera Chorus in a program of selections from opera and Broadway.

## **COMPANY HISTORY**

Founded in 1961 as the Opera Workshop by Maestro Roland Johnson and his wife Arline, early performances featured local singers in selections from *Die Fledermaus* at Madison Memorial High School in 1962 and a fully staged production of *La Boheme* at East High School in 1963. Soon known as the Madison Civic Opera Guild, by 1974 the company was performing in the Memorial Union Theater and hiring professional singers. Six years later, the Oscar Mayer Theatre in the Madison Civic Center became Madison Opera's performance home.

Under the leadership of Ann Stanke in the 1980s and 90s, the company developed a strong national reputation for producing diverse repertoire, including the world premiere of Daron Hagen's *The Shining Brow* (1993), and casting leading American opera singers alongside emerging talent. Maestro John DeMain was appointed Madison Opera's artistic director in 1994, and in 2004 the company became a resident organization of the new Overture Center for the Arts. In 2005, Allan Naplan was hired as Madison Opera's second General Director, and in recent years the company has expanded to a three production season, with audience attendance and donations at an all time high.

Today, Madison Opera continues to grow artistically while furthering its mission of engaging, inspiring, and enriching the greater community through the presentation of world class opera.

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