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A Brilliant Scholar Looks to the Sky:
Madison Opera Presents a New Production of *Galileo Galilei*
American composer Philip Glass's opera probes the faith of the famed astronomer

Madison, Wis. – Madison Opera continues its Season of Dreamers with a new production of Philip Glass's *Galileo Galilei*. This highly theatrical work will have four performances in the 350-seat Playhouse at Overture Center for the Arts from January 26 through 29, 2012. Among Glass's most acclaimed recent works, *Galileo Galilei* offers a moving portrait of the famous astronomer's life. Beginning with Galileo's final days and moving backwards through time, the opera recounts his trial before the Inquisition, his fall from public grace, and his ascent from youthful aspirant to accomplished scientist. The opera explores the relationship between science and spirituality, and, ultimately, the question of humanity.

"My instinctual reaction to the piece was a tremendous empathy," says stage director A. Scott Parry. "Galileo questioned the accepted beliefs of his time and suffered for it, but regardless, his mental and spiritual growth continued to expand like the universe he so unendingly peered into." Parry, along with production designer Barry Steele, envisions using the unique attributes of the Playhouse to create a highly theatrical work, with projections moving the audience across time and space.

Galileo Galilei is the first Philip Glass opera produced by Madison Opera. The prolific Glass, well-known for his film scores and concert hall pieces, has composed more than twenty operas, including *Satyagraha*, *The Fall of the House of Usher* and *Einstein on the Beach*. *Galileo Galilei* premiered June 24, 2002 at Chicago's Goodman Theatre. Kelly Kuo, who conducted Madison Opera's *Così fan tutte* in 2009, returns to lead thirteen members of the Madison Symphony Orchestra for Glass's minimalist opera.

"In performing contemporary music, I like to remember that there was a time when the only music being performed was music written at that time," says Kuo. "I think it's important to keep performing music written by living composers so that the best music being composed can be recognized. There were countless other composers living and working at the same time as Mozart, and yet we don't remember many others because Mozart's music was much more able to withstand the test of time."

Celebrated tenor William Joyner makes his Madison Opera debut as the conflicted Older Galileo, who struggles to reconcile a life of the mind with his religious devotion. Internationally-acclaimed bass-baritone Dean Peterson, who appeared with Madison Opera as Daland in *The Flying Dutchman*, tackles multiple roles, including

Performances:

Friday-Saturday, January 26-28 • 8 p.m.
Sunday, January 29 • 2:30 p.m.
The Playhouse at Overture Center for the Arts
Sung in English with projected supertitles

Box Office:

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(608) 258-4141
www.madisonopera.org

Tickets:

\$20-\$67
Student and group discounts available

that of Pope Urban VIII, whose admiration for Galileo conflicts with political pressures. Soprano Jamie-Rose Guarrine, whose season engagements include performances at Wolf Trap Opera and Chicago Opera Theater, sings the role of the Older Maria Celeste, Galileo’s beloved daughter and scientific muse. Bass-baritone John Arnold makes his debut as an idealistic Young Galileo. Mezzo-soprano Jennifer DeMain, last seen with Madison Opera as Flora in *The Turn of the Screw*, joins the cast as Young Marie Celeste.

Madison Opera offers an array of events surrounding the opera and Galileo’s life. The Opera Up Close series will provide insight into *Galileo Galilei* on January 22, and Pre-Opera talks will be hosted by General Director Kathryn Smith one hour prior to each performance. In addition, the adventurous and curious are invited to attend “Galileo’s Heavens” on January 14, an interactive event presented by Madison Opera and hosted by UW Madison’s Space Place.

Special event details and full cast and production information are enclosed. For photos, to schedule artist interviews, or for more information, please contact Manager of Marketing and Community Engagement Ronia Holmes at holmes@madisonopera.org or 608.238.8085.

PRODUCTION TEAM AND CAST

Conductor.....Kelly Kuo
Stage Director.....A. Scott Parry
Costume Designer.....Karen Brown-Larimore
Production Designer.....Barry Steele*

Older Galileo.....William Joyner*
Pope Urban VIII.....Dean Peterson
Older Maria Celeste.....Jamie-Rose Guarrine
Young Galileo.....John Arnold*
Young Maria Celeste.....Jennifer DeMain
1st Cardinal.....Alex Edgemon*
2nd Cardinal.....Darik Knutsen*
3rd Cardinal.....Errik Hood*
Scribe.....Allisanne Apple
Sagredo.....Saira Frank*

* *Madison Opera debut*

RELATED EVENTS

Galileo’s Heavens: Hosted by Space Place

Saturday, January 14, 2012, 4 p.m., UW Madison Space Place, 2300 S. Park St.

Free and open to the public | Reservations required

The adventurous and curious are invited to learn more about Galileo’s work and inventions through a special event hosted by UW Madison’s Space Place. Tour the Space Place exhibit hall, receive an introduction to Galileo’s amazing discoveries from Space Place Director Dr. James Lattis, and view Jupiter and Venus through a telescope from the Space Place observation deck (weather permitting). In addition to these free activities, you can try your hand at invention and continue astronomical observing at home by purchasing a Galileoscope telescope kit, which Space Place will help you assemble. The event (hot cocoa included) is free; the Galileoscope

kits are \$20 each (cash or check only). Space is limited. Reservations can be made online at www.madisonopera.org or by calling Madison Opera at (608) 238-8085. The reservation deadline is January 11.

Opera Up Close: The *Galileo Galilei* Preview

Sunday, January 22, 2012, 1-3p.m., Madison Museum of Contemporary Art Lecture Hall

\$20 general admission; tickets available at the door or in advance by calling Madison Opera at (608) 238-8085

Join Madison Opera for a behind-the-scenes exploration of *Galileo Galilei*, including a multimedia look at the works of iconic American composer Philip Glass, hosted by General Director Kathryn Smith with commentary from stage director A. Scott Parry, Maestro Kelly Kuo, and members of the cast. Special guest lecturer Michael Shank, History of Science and Integrated Liberal Studies professor at UW-Madison, will discuss the life of famed astronomer Galileo.

Pre-Opera Talks

January 26-29, 2012 | One hour prior to curtain | Rotunda Studio at Overture Center | Free to ticket holders

Attend an introduction to *Galileo Galilei* one hour prior to curtain to learn about the music, Philip Glass, and Galileo himself.

Cast, Director, and Conductor Bios



Tenor **William Joyner** (Older Galileo) is one of the most sought after tenors on the international opera scene. Over the course of his career, Mr. Joyner has given over 525 performances of 55 different roles, in 12 countries on 3 continents. Recent appearances include Malatestino in *Francesca da Rimini* with Opéra National de Paris; Radamès in *Aida* with Calgary Opera; and Don José in *Carmen* with North Carolina Opera. This is his Madison Opera debut.



Bass-baritone **Dean Peterson** (Pope) is a regular guest of the world's leading opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, and Geneva Opera. He has earned critical acclaim as an interpreter of Figaro, Don Giovanni, Leporello, Escamillo, the Four Villains, Mephistopheles, Mustafa, Olin Blitch in *Susannah*, and as Rucker Lattimore in Floyd's *Cold Sassy Tree*, written for him and premiered by the Houston Grand Opera. Mr. Peterson last appeared with Madison Opera as Daland in *The Flying Dutchman*.



Soprano **Jamie-Rose Guarrine** (Older Maria Celeste) is quickly gaining acclaim for her vibrant vocal beauty, charming stage presence, and accomplished musicianship. Recent performances include Olympia in *The Tales of Hoffman* with Wolf Trap Opera; Barbarina in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Santa Fe Opera; Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Utah Opera; and Papagena in *The Magic Flute* with Santa Fe Opera and Austin Lyric Opera. Ms. Guarrine debuted with Madison Opera as the Shepherd in *Tosca* while a student at UW Madison.



Bass-baritone **John Arnold** (Young Galileo) is forging an exciting career as a dynamic singer. Recent engagements include Schaunard with UW Madison's Opera, Papageno in *The Magic Flute* with Cincinnati Opera's Outreach program, the title role in *Gianni Schicchi* with UW Madison, the title role in *Don Giovanni* with University of Tennessee – Knoxville, and the Sergeant in *La Bohème* and Notary in *Don Pasquale* at Des Moines Metro Opera. This spring he will sing Leporello in *Don Giovanni* at UW Madison. This is his Madison Opera debut.



Mezzo-soprano **Jennifer DeMain** (Young Maria Celeste) is currently a sophomore at UW Madison. A graduate of Madison's Edgewood High School, she received a local Tommy Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her role as Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*. She recently played multiple roles in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* and appeared in the chorus of University Opera's *La Bohème*. Ms. DeMain was last seen with Madison Opera as Flora in *The Turn of the Screw*.



A. Scott Parry (Stage Director) returns to Madison Opera for *Galileo Galilei*. His production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, which opened Madison Opera's 50th anniversary season, was hailed as "splendid" by *The Isthmus*. Mr. Parry's productions have spanned an enormous range of repertoire, from *West Side Story* to *Madama Butterfly* and *La Bohème* to *La Cage aux Folles*. He conceived, designed, and directed the world premiere production of *I lavori d'amore persi*, a compilation of music theatre fragments by Claudio Monteverdi for the Bloomington Early Music Festival, and premiered the absurdist opera *The Pig, the Farmer, and the Artist* at the Ellen Stewart Theatre at La Mama's Off-Broadway in New York City. Mr. Parry has served on the faculty of Indiana University in Bloomington, where he received his Master's degree in Opera Stage Direction, and headed the Musical Theatre program at Mesa Community College in Phoenix, Arizona. He has continuing associations with such companies as New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Dallas Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, and Chautauqua Opera. As a composer, Mr. Parry premiered his theatre song cycle *On the Impracticality and Sure Impossibility of Perpetually Uncomplicated and Everlasting Love* at NYC's Singer's Forum, and has recently completed an English-language libretto adaptation of *La mère coupable* by Beaumarchais, which is being set to music.



Kelly Kuo (Conductor) returns to Madison Opera after having last led performances of *Così fan tutte* from the harpsichord. Mr. Kuo has had tremendous success working with both singers and instrumentalists in the United States and abroad in a wide spectrum of repertoire including nearly 60 operas spanning the 17th through 21st centuries. Mr. Kuo's recent conducting engagements include debuts at the Lyric Opera of Chicago (*Porgy and Bess*), Kentucky Opera (*La Traviata*), and re-engagements with New York Harlem Productions (*Porgy and Bess* in Las Palmas) and Lyric Opera San Diego (*Hansel and Gretel*). He was also cover conductor for *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* at Santa Fe Opera and prepared *La Traviata* for Lorin Maazel at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing. As Assistant Conductor of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra for three years, he led the ensemble in performances of *El amor brujo*, *Appalachian Spring*, and *Rhapsody in Blue*, in addition to education concerts. Highlights of recent seasons include his European conducting debut leading multiple performances of *Porgy and Bess* in Munich and Hamburg, conducting debuts at Eugene Opera (*Madama Butterfly*), Opera Pacific (*La Traviata*), Tulsa Opera (*The Little Prince*), Lyric Opera San Diego (*Iolanthe*, *Trial by Jury*, and the world premiere of *Rumpelstiltskin*) and Rising Star Opera Theater (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Mozart and Salieri*). In addition, Opera International engaged Mr. Kuo for four consecutive years as Music Director for its vocal gala concert in Washington D.C.'s Strathmore Hall.

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Madison Opera is a non-profit professional opera company based in Madison, Wisconsin. Founded in 1961, the company grew from a local workshop presenting community singers in English-language productions to a nationally recognized organization producing diverse repertoire and presenting leading American opera singers alongside emerging talent. A resident organization of the Overture Center for the Arts, Madison Opera presents three productions annually in addition to the free summer concert Opera in the Park and a host of educational programming.