



OPERATAMPA

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Opera Tampa announces 2009-2010 series Company celebrates 15th anniversary season

Tampa, Fla. — Opera Tampa's 2009-2010 season is sure to elate every opera buff and enthrall any inquisitive newcomer. Composers Donizetti and Puccini, among others, will be showcased in a season of passion, romance, intrigue and opulence. The season also features Renée Fleming in her eagerly anticipated return to Tampa as well as an evening of arias and encores celebrating 15 years of Opera Tampa and Opera Tampa's 15th Anniversary Benefit, featuring world-renowned tenor Marcello Giordani. It's a grand opera season not to be missed.

“For our 15th anniversary, we've assembled a remarkable series,” said TBPAC President Judy Lisi. The Opera Tampa artistic team – which includes Lisi, Conductor Anton Coppola, Associate General Director Maria Zouves and Artistic Advisor Sherrill Milnes – has “put together a series that both entertains and challenges our fervent opera-going audiences here in the Tampa Bay area.”

The 2009-2010 Opera Tampa season includes:

Gaetano Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*

Nov. 20 and 22, 2009
Carol Morsani Hall

One of the greatest tragedies in the opera repertoire, *Lucia di Lammermoor* has become the showpiece for coloratura sopranos. Maria Callas and Joan Sutherland revived the opera in all its glory in the 1950s, and it has since become a favorite with opera audiences. Technically challenging, deeply moving and highly dramatic, Donizetti's masterpiece features glorious music that heightens the impending madness and misfortune. In the story, the greed and rivalry between the Ravenswoods and the Lammermoors result in the forced marriage of the innocent heroine Lucia to the important Arturo. Lucia must renounce Edgardo, her true love, which drives her to madness and murder. Soprano Rachel Watkins (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Faust*) returns to Opera Tampa as Lucia. Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage, *Lucia di Lammermoor* features an international cast along with the Opera Tampa Orchestra and Chorus.

Renée Fleming in an orchestra concert

Jan. 26, 2010

Carol Morsani Hall

Acclaimed by the press as one of the truly magnificent voices of our time, American soprano Renée Fleming's international career spans over a decade. Renowned for her superb vocal intelligence, exquisite musical grace and interpretive abilities, this two-time Grammy Award®-winning soprano has cultivated a devoted following worldwide for her work on the operatic stage, in concerts and recitals, on television, radio and recordings and as a champion of new music. Fleming, known as "the people's diva," brings to TBPAC an unforgettable evening of music — singing the arias from the classical soprano repertoire that made her famous, plus some surprises along the way.

Arias & Encores celebrating 15 years of Opera Tampa

March 28, 2010

Ferguson Hall

Opera Tampa artists, apprentices and special guests come together to celebrate 15 years of beautiful music, great singing and wonderful productions. Video footage of past productions provides the backdrop for this glorious concert, highlighting the greatest arias and ensembles to grace the stages of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, including Maestro Anton Coppola's *Sacco and Vanzetti*, plus the music of Verdi, Puccini, Bizet and more.

Giacomo Puccini's

La Rondine

April 23 and 25, 2010

Carol Morsani Hall

In this rare staging of one of Puccini's most elegant and emotional operas, Magda is the kept woman of a wealthy Paris banker. When Ruggero, an earnest young man from a respectable family falls for Magda, she must consider the price she has paid for her glittering existence. *La Rondine* has experienced a renaissance recently with audiences rediscovering this lost, bittersweet treasure. Blending soaring music with tender comedic flourish, *La Rondine (The Swallow)* showcases an international cast along with the Opera Tampa Orchestra and Chorus. Soprano Rochelle Bard makes her Opera Tampa debut as Magda. *La Rondine* will be sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

Opera Tampa's 15th Anniversary Benefit

featuring Marcello Giordani

May 16, 2010

Ferguson Hall

Opera Tampa celebrates its 15th anniversary at this signature event hosted by the Opera Tampa League. The evening begins with an elegant cocktail reception, followed by a sumptuous dinner on the stage of Ferguson Hall. And then, the *pièce de résistance*! One of today's biggest opera stars, tenor Marcello Giordani, will thrill the gathered crowd with his vocal artistry in a private performance.

With the 2009-2010 season, the Opera Tampa Apprentice Program will continue its mission to serve the Tampa Bay community by educating audiences and communicating the beauty of opera. This third year of the program again will feature a select number of singers, chosen after a national search, to serve as ambassadors of opera and song for the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Coppola, Zouves, Milnes and other internationally acclaimed artists will help the apprentices with career development while educating the community and providing musical workshops, master classes and performances.

Season tickets are now on sale beginning at just \$148.25. Those interested in purchasing season tickets should call the TBPAC Ticket Office at 813.229.STAR or outside the Tampa Bay area at 800.955.1045 or visit www.tbpac.org for on-sale information. TBPAC donors and Opera Tampa League members are given first priority for new season tickets. Call 813.222.1036 or visit www.operatampa.org to learn more about donation opportunities. Group tickets and individual opera tickets will go on sale at a later date to be announced.

Events, days, dates, times, performers and prices are subject to change without notice.

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