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AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS ANNOUNCES 22ND SEASON

**2010-11 SEASON OFFERS PREMIERE OPERAS, COMMISSIONED SONGS,
AND EVENTS FEATURING DISCUSSIONS WITH CREATORS**

NEW YORK – AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS (AOP) will begin its 22nd season of commissioning, developing and presenting new opera and music theatre works this fall. From its home in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, AOP opens the artistic process to audiences with libretto readings, concerts and workshops throughout the year featuring AOP's unique intimate discussions with the creative artists. With ticket prices averaging under \$20, AOP will be the go-to destination for budget-conscious audiences eager to sample exciting and timely new works that have their authors present to talk about their creations.

AOP will be entering the recording studio with two new projects – the first-ever CD recording of its commissioned opera *Darkling* (2006), with music by Stefan Weisman and a libretto by Anna Rabinowitz based on her book, to be released by Albany Records in 2011, and *Judgment of Midas*, a new opera by Turkish-American composer Kamran Ince and librettist Miriam Siedel, to be recorded in Ankara, Turkey and released on Naxos Records. *Judgment of Midas*, based on an ancient myth of a musical battle of the gods set in Sardis, Turkey, will feature Turkish instruments incorporated into the orchestra by the composer.

The 2010-2011 New York opera season will also feature the local premiere of *Séance on a Wet Afternoon*, the first opera by composer **Stephen Schwartz** (*Wicked*, *Godspell*), at New York City Opera. Expect numerous AOP-hosted events to celebrate the premiere in April. *Séance* was developed at AOP as part of its core development program **First Chance**; projects familiar to AOP audiences that are returning to AOP's First Chance program this season include *Love/Hate*, *Marymere*, *Semmelweis*, and *Judgment of Midas*. AOP will initiate development work on *Sun Yat-Sen* by **Huang Ruo**, an opera about the historical Chinese revolutionary, commissioned and slated to premiere in Beijing and Hong Kong in 2011.

AOP will continue developing and workshopping pieces in its ongoing operatic monodrama series, offering powerful one-act works for solo singers. Following

2009's *L' Abbe Agathon*, a commissioned adaptation for the stage from Arvo Pärt that debuted at the Guggenheim Museum, the monodrama series continues with *The Wanton Sublime* (by *Heart of Darkness* composer **Tarik O'Regan** and *Darkling* librettist **Anna Rabinowitz**), *Nora and the Great Outdoors* (Daniel Felsenfeld/Will Eno), *Our Basic Nature* (John Glover/Kelley Rourke), and Mohammed Fairouz's *Jeder Mensch weiss Alles (Every Person knows Everything)*, with mezzo-soprano **Kate Lindsey** (Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera's *Amelia*) as the notorious Alma Mahler.

2010-11 will also see new performances generated through its artistic partnership with The Walt Whitman Project and its two commissioning programs *Walt Whitman in Song* and *I Hear America Singing*. Performances of the recent compositions from these programs including "**Calamus Songs**," "**Songs from the F Train**," and "**Songs from the A Train**" will continue to be programmed throughout the city during the year with a new set of songs commissioned for premiere at the Make Music NY Festival in June 2011. "Songs from the F Train" will be published later this year by Edition Schott, New York.

And, as always, AOP will continue its tradition of free, outdoor community presentations, educational symposiums featuring composers and singers introducing their craft to young audiences and students, and commissioning and presenting world-premiere songs, throughout the year. Information on all of these shows and events can be found throughout the season at AOP's website www.operaprojects.org.

AOP TICKETS AND INFO

Admission prices to AOP events vary, with an average ticket price of \$15 for concert workshops. Discounts for students and seniors are available for most events. Visit www.operaprojects.org for updated ticket, calendar and event information as well as AOP news, features, artist interviews and project profiles.

For over 20 years, **American Opera Projects** (AOP) has been creating, developing and presenting exclusively new American opera and music theatre projects that have appeared at the Royal Opera House, London, the Lincoln Center Festival, Skirball Center at NYU, the Guggenheim Museum, Symphony Space, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and many other national and international venues. AOP, based in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, has presented over 15 world premiere operas including Lee Hoiby's *This is the Rill Speaking* (2008), Stefan Weisman's *Darkling* (2006), and Paula Kimper's *Patience & Sarah* (1998). Upcoming and recent productions of AOP-developed projects include *Séance on a Wet Afternoon*, the first opera by Stephen Schwartz, at New York City Opera in April 2011 and the world premieres of Jorge Martín's *Before Night Falls* at Fort Worth Opera in 2010 and Tarik O'Regan's *Heart of Darkness* at The Royal Opera House's Linbury Studio in 2011.

AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS: 2009-2010 Season

September 12, 2010: *Love/Hate*

AOP teams with the **Center City Opera Theatre** in Philadelphia to present performances of scenes and libretto reading from *Love/Hate* (composer, **Jack Perla**; librettist, **Rob Bailis**) as part of the **Philadelphia Fringe Festival**. Performances include discussions and talk-back sessions with composers and creators to discuss the creation and development of the operas. Philadelphia, PA

September-October, 2010: *Darkling*

AOP begins production on the studio recording of *Darkling* to be distributed by **Albany Records** in 2011. Performances by Jon Garrison, Hai-Ting Chinn, Mark Uhlemann, Maeve Hoglund, and Carol Monda. Music Director, Brian DeMaris. Soundscape director, Matt Gray. Produced by Judith Sherman.

Opera Grows in Brooklyn, 2010-11

October 15 and December 10, 2010. 2011 dates TBA. AOP, in collaboration with Opera on Tap, continues its hit quarterly series of contemporary opera at one of Brooklyn's most innovative performing venues. Galapagos Art Space - 16 Main Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

Fall 2010: *Marymere*

AOP presents *Marymere* by **Matthew Schickele** in concert. Performances by Hai-Ting Chinn. Mannes College, 150 West 85th Street, New York, NY 10024.

January 9-23, 2011: *Judgment of Midas*

AOP partners with Bilkent Symphony Orchestra for the concert premiere and recording of *Judgment of Midas* (composer, **Kamran Ince**; librettist **Miriam Seidel**). Performances by Lynn Cagler. Music direction by J. David Jackson. Ankara, Turkey.

February 4-6, 2011: *Nora and the Great Outdoors*

AOP presents the first piano-vocal workshop of new monodrama (composer, **Daniel Felsenfeld**; librettist **Will Eno**). South Oxford Space, 138 South Oxford St., Brooklyn, NY 11217.

April 29, 2011: *The Wanton Sublime*

AOP teams with the Institute for Advanced Study to present a piano-vocal workshop of new monodrama (composer, **Tarik O'Regan**; librettist **Anna Rabinowitz**). Wolfensohn Hall, The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Spring 2011: *Jeder Mensch weiss Alles (Every Person knows Everything)*

AOP will present excerpts from the opera by **Mohammed Fairouz**, featuring mezzo-soprano and co-creator **Kate Lindsey**. Venue TBA.

Spring 2011: *Semmelweis*

AOP will present further staged workshops of the opera (composer, **Raymond Lustig**; librettist, **Matt Gray** and **Matthew Doherty**). Venue TBA.

And also in AOP's 2010-11 season, development on a new opera by Huang Ruo, *Sun Yat-Sen*, to be premiered in Beijing and Hong Kong.

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American Opera Projects

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