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**AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS PRESENTS:
THE EUROPEAN PREMIERE OF
*DARKLING***

“This is a profound, provocative piece of musical theater—one that I hope will occasion a great many opera lovers to stray from habitual paths. As specific as the context of *Darkling* may be, its message is ultimately universal.”

(Time Out NY music critic Steve Smith)

NEW YORK, NY, January 23rd, 2007— on **June 9th 2007**, AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS (AOP) in association with **FRIENDS OF FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN (FFUB)** will present a concert version of **DARKLING**, AOP’s critically acclaimed production that premiered in New York City in the spring of 2006. With music by **Stefan Weisman** and an original song by **Lee Hoiby**, **DARKLING** is directed and adapted by **Michael Comlish** from the book by poet **Anna Rabinowitz**. The performance will be held in Berlin, Germany at **Freie Universität Berlin’s** newly renovated 1000 seat **Max Kade Auditorium**.

This performance will take place as part of the annual German festival *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* (Long Night of the Sciences) and will celebrate the establishment of a **Center for Jewish Studies at Freie Universität Berlin**.

Praised during its 2006 Off-Broadway run as "**captivating... brave and sensitive**" (*The New York Times*), "**absorbing**" and "**visually striking**" (*Time Out NY*), **DARKLING the opera**, brings to the stage award-winning New York poet Anna Rabinowitz’s acclaimed book of the same name that assembles narratives of the Holocaust derived from old letters and unidentified photos she found in a shoebox neglected for decades on a closet shelf in her parents’ home.

“I was trying to narrate something that couldn’t be narrated,” Rabinowitz says of her family’s destruction, “I was trying to make sense out of these shards, these fragments.”

DARKLING is a work that speaks for those who did not survive to tell their stories or write their memories. Featuring the singers **Hai-Ting Chinn**, **Mark Uhlemann** and **Jon Garrison**, actors **Elzbieta Czyzewska** and **Carol Monda** and a special performance by **DARKLING** author **Anna Rabinowitz**, the production recasts opera in a contemporary form by overlaying poetry with live music, interweaving the drama with a landscape of projected films and images, collages of spoken text and pre-recorded soundscapes.

Each year, *The Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* intends to arouse the curiosity of a broad section of the general German public in topics and ideas from science and research. The festival attracts 70,000 people each year and is always held in a different city or region. **The presentation of DARKLING will serve as an exhibition displaying an intersection in science and art where new technologies have facilitated the creation of an engrossing new kind of multi-media driven theater.**

Founded in 1988, **American Opera Projects (AOP)** has gained international recognition as an arts organization devoted to creating, developing, and presenting new American opera and experimental music theatre. AOP is led by Charles Jarden, Executive Director, and Steven Osgood, Artistic Director.

Press material is available at: www.operaprojects.org. For more information on **DARKLING** or any other AOP projects in development, please visit the Projects page at www.operaprojects.org.