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AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS PRESENTS “SIX SCENES” OF NEW MUSIC BY SIX EMERGING COMPOSERS

NEW YORK, NY, September 17, 2007— On Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13, 2007 at 8:00pm **AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS’ Composers & the Voice Series** presents **SIX SCENES**, concert readings from six operas-in-development. Performances will be held in the Great Room at South Oxford Space in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, the home of American Opera Projects (AOP). Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for students/seniors).

Six emerging composers were chosen in 2006 by American Opera Projects to spend a year writing for the operatic voice. The **SIX SCENES** program, for voice(s) and piano, represents the final compositions created during these “Composers & the Voice” workshops. A live panel of judges will select one of the scenes to be produced as a staged reading in March 2008 at **Manhattan School of Music’s** Greenfield Hall. The announcement will be made online at AOP’s website www.operaprojects.org on Friday, October 19.

“In the Grand Opera tradition, each of these new works centers on relationships,” explains C&V creator and director **Steven Osgood**, “most of them dysfunctional. In fact, in only one opera, **Caroline Mallonée’s** adaptation of Jane Austen’s “Persuasion,” are the people on the up and up! Lying husbands drive **Gregg Wramage’s** “Death in Summer,” and **Daniel Felsenfeld’s** “The Bloody Chamber.” Nathaniel Hawthorne is fiancé to two of the Peabody sisters simultaneously in **Jennifer Fitzgerald’s** “Mr. Hawthorne’s Engagement.” In **Stephen Andrew Taylor’s** “Paradises Lost,” Hsing must uncover the lies propagated about her spaceship’s journey to a new planet, and **George Lam’s** “Someone Anyone” is a knot of lies, in which the unraveling of one seems to give rise to two more. The musical worlds covered by the six composers are exceptionally diverse, with ample helpings of melody. It promises to be an exciting evening of new works.”

Members of the **AOP Resident Ensemble of Singers** for the 06-07 season will perform the scenes: sopranos **Caroline Worra** (The Met, Glimmerglass Opera) and **Amy Van Roekel** (Lyric Opera Cleveland, Florida Grand Opera), mezzo **Abigail Fischer** (Bronx opera, Boston Pops), tenor **Matthew Garrett** (Houston Grand Opera, Chicago Opera Theater), baritones **Gregory Gerbrandt** (Glimmerglass Opera, Nashville Opera) and **Chad Sloan** (Tanglewood Music Festival, Utah Opera), and bass **Matthew Curran** (Seattle Opera, Zurich Opera). Music direction and accompaniment will be provided by C&V Co-Music Directors **Jennifer Peterson** and **Kelly Horsted**.

Each season American Opera Projects selects six composers to work with the company’s Resident Ensemble of Singers for its nationally recognized Composers & the Voice Series. The primary focus of the Composers & the Voice Series is to give composers extensive experience working collaboratively with singers on writing for the voice. Created and led by AOP Artistic Director Steven Osgood, Composers & the Voice participants meet in closed sessions from November to May to present and discuss new works composed specifically for the individual

voices of the Resident Ensemble. “Composer Chairs,” sponsorships named in honor of mentors and their support of Composers & the Voice, include composers **Mark Adamo**, **Tobias Picker**, and **Richard Peaslee**, each of whom have made themselves available to our composers for one-on-one discussions and feedback. Composer **Lee Hoiby** will be named the next C&V Composer Chair at a special reception in December 2007.

Composers from the program in past seasons have gone on to receive awards from the Douglas Moore Fund for Opera, ASCAP, American Composers Forum ArtSong, as well as continued development at American Opera Projects and a major commission from AOP, **DARKLING**, composed by Stefan Weisman, which ran for 3 weeks in NYC and toured Berlin and Poland in summer 2007.

AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS' COMPOSERS & THE VOICE: SIX SCENES
PERFORMS AT 8:00PM ON OCTOBER 12 & 13, 2007 IN THE GREAT ROOM AT SOUTH OXFORD SPACE (138 S. OXFORD ST. IN FT. GREENE, BROOKLYN). TO RESERVE TICKETS CALL AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS M-F 10-6PM, TEL: 718-398-4024. TICKETS ARE \$15 (\$12 FOR STUDENTS/SENIORS).

Press material is available at: www.operaprojects.org.

For more on *Composers & the Voice*, including a detailed history of the program and information on this year's composers and singers, visit www.operaprojects.org/composers_voice .



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.

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