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**AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS PRESENTS:  
*DARKLING*  
PART OF NEW YORK CITY OPERA'S  
VOX: ON THE EDGE 2007 READING SERIES**

**"...productions like this remind you that all too much light is cast upon the Met and City Opera—and even San Francisco and Houston—to define what new opera is, or might be. Let *Darkling* serve as a reminder that opera can also be what and where it is found. 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."** – *Night After Night (blog of NY music critic Steve Smith)*

**NEW YORK, NY, January 22nd, 2007— on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS (AOP) will present a concert reading of its critically acclaimed production *DARKLING* at NYU's Skirball Auditorium as part of New York City Opera's VOX series. The performance will offer American audiences a preview of this new, reduced version of the Off-Broadway production that will have its European Premiere in Berlin on June 9<sup>th</sup>. 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**.**

Called "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 by assembling narratives of the Holocaust through the turbulence of multiple voices in the act of finding themselves. Rabinowitz's book is 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 **Abby Fisher, Jody Sheinbaum, 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.

**"captivating.... brave and sensitive" - *The New York Times* on *Darkling's* premiere**

**On June 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 AOP in association with Freie Universität Berlin (FFUB) will present the European premiere of *DARKLING* at the opening of the newly-restored **Max Kade Auditorium** in Berlin, Germany as part of the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* (The Long Night of Sciences) annual festival.**

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](http://www.operaprojects.org).** For more information on *DARKLING* or any other AOP projects in development, please visit the Projects page at [www.operaprojects.org](http://www.operaprojects.org).

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