

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS PRESENTS
“FIRST GLIMPSE”
OF SIX EMERGING COMPOSERS
(Friday May 11th, Saturday May 12th)**

NEW YORK, NY, March 27, 2007— On Friday, May 11 at 8pm and Saturday, May 12, 2007 at 10:30pm **AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS** (AOP) will present **FIRST GLIMPSE 2007**, the first public presentation of compositions developed during this season’s *Composers & the Voice* program. The performances will be held in the Great Room at South Oxford Space in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, the home of American Opera Projects and the Hideaway Room at Helen’s Lounge in the Chelsea district of Manhattan. Audiences will get to hear selections written by **Daniel Felsenfeld, Jennifer Fitzgerald, George Lam, Caroline Mallonée, Stephen Andrew Taylor, and Gregg Wramage** – six emerging composers who were chosen by AOP to spend a year creating new works focusing on the operatic voice.

Performing the selections will be the **AOP Resident Ensemble of Singers** for the 06-07 season: sopranos **Caroline Worra** (New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Opera) and **Amy Van Roekel** (Lyric Opera Cleveland, Florida Grand Opera), mezzo **Abigail Fischer** (New York Collegium, the Rebel Ensemble), tenor **Robert Mack** (NYCO, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Houston Grand Opera), and bass **Matthew Curran** (Seattle Opera Young Artist Program, New Orleans Opera). Accompanying on piano will be **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* Workshop 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. The presentations on May 11 and 12 will be the first public performances of compositions created during this year’s workshops.

The current season of *Composers & the Voice* has featured guest lectures from composer **Mark Adamo** (*Little Women, Lysistrata*) and stage director Ned Cauty (Juilliard Opera Theatre, Opera Theatre of St. Louis) and the introduction of “Composer Chairs,” sponsorships named in honor of mentors and their support of *Composers & the Voice*. This year’s “Composer Chairs” include Mr. Adamo and fellow composers **Tobias Picker, Richard Peaslee and Lee Hoiby**. The *Composers & the Voice* 06-07 season will conclude in September 2007 with a presentation of all new scenes developed during the summer, with one of these scenes chosen for Opera Index’s *New American Opera Previews* in May 2008.

American Opera Projects’ **Composers & the Voice: FIRST GLIMPSE 2007** performs at 8pm on May 11, 2007 in the Great Room at South Oxford Space (138 S. Oxford St. in Ft. Greene, Brooklyn) and at Helen’s Hideaway in Manhattan on May 12 at 10:30pm (169 8th Avenue b/18th and 19th Sts). To reserve tickets call American Opera Projects M-F 10-6PM, Tel: 718-398-4024. Tickets are \$15 /\$12 for students/seniors.

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