

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press contact: Matt Gray, AOP Projects Manager, email: mgray@operaprojects.org phone: 718-398-4024

**AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS PRESENTS
“FIRST GLIMPSE”
OF SIX EMERGING COMPOSERS
(Thursday May 8th, Friday May 9th)**

NEW YORK, NY, March 27, 2007— On Thursday, May 8 at 8pm and Friday, May 9, 2008 at 7pm **AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS** (AOP) will present **FIRST GLIMPSE 2008**, 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 AOP, and the Laurie Beechman Theater at the West Bank Café in the theatre district of Manhattan. Audiences will get to hear selections written by **Clint Borzoni, Kristin Kuster, Raymond J. Lustig, Jack Perla, Gregory Spears**, and **Andrew Staniland** – 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 07-08 season: sopranos **Caroline Worra** (New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Opera) and **Donna Smith** (Glimmerglass Opera), mezzo **Abigail Fischer** (New York Collegium, the Rebel Ensemble), baritone **Matthew Worth** (OTSL, Glimmerglass Opera), and bass **Matthew Curran** (New Jersey Opera, New Orleans Opera). Accompanying on piano will be **Jennifer Peterson** and **Kelly Horsted**.

Created and led by former AOP **Artistic Director Steven Osgood**, *Composers & the Voice* began in 2002 and is currently in its fifth season. Every year American Opera Projects selects six composers to work with the company’s Resident Ensemble of Singers for the nationally recognized 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. 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 8 and 9 will be the first public performances of compositions created during this year’s workshops.

This year, esteemed composers **Tan Dun** (*The First Emperor, Marco Polo*) and **Stephen Schwartz** (*Séance on a Wet Afternoon, Wicked, Godspell*) have joined *Composers & the Voice* as "composer chairs." Mr. Tan and Mr. Schwartz will join composers **Mark Adamo, Lee Hoiby, Dick Peaslee**, and **Tobias Picker** in supporting and fostering the program. Each of these distinguished composers will be personally associated with a selected C&V composer throughout the season with opportunities to hear their work, join C&V discussions, and provide one-on-one feedback.

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.

Continued...



CALENDAR LISTING

American Opera Projects presents

Composers & the Voice: First Glimpse 2008

Thu May 8, 8 PM

South Oxford Space - 138 South Oxford St., Brooklyn NY 11217

Tickets: \$15 / \$12 (stud/snrs), Reservations: 718-398-4024 or mgray@operaprojects.org;

Fri May 9, 7 PM

The Laurie Beechman Theater

West Bank Café - 407 W 42nd Street, New York City, NY 10036

Tickets: \$10 cover charge and a \$15 Food and/or Beverage minimum.

Reservations: 212-695-6909; Credit cards accepted. Doors open 1/2 hour prior to performance.

END