

Press contact: Matt Gray, AOP Company Manager, email: mgray@operaprojects.org, phone: 718-398-4024
Press material is available at: www.operaprojects.org/press

**AOP'S FIRST CHANCE SHOWCASES
CREATION OF TWO OPERAS
*HENRY'S WIFE, EICHMANN, MARCH 13 & 20 IN NYC***

**CONCERT PERFORMANCES IN MANHATTAN AND BROOKLYN GIVE
PUBLIC ACCESS TO COMPOSERS, LIBRETTISTS, PERFORMERS**

AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS (AOP) will present concert performances of scenes from two operas-in-development – *Henry's Wife*, by composer **Randall Eng** (pictured) and librettist Alexis Bernier, and *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, by composer **Mohammed Fairouz** and librettist David Shapiro. *Henry's Wife* will be presented at Manhattan School of Music's Greenfield Hall (120 Claremont Ave. @122nd St.) on Sunday, **March 13 at 2:30pm**, continuing a five-year relationship between AOP and Manhattan School of Music. *Henry's Wife* and scenes from *Eichmann in Jerusalem* will be presented on Sunday, **March 20 at 7:00pm** at South Oxford Space: 138 South Oxford Street in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. Each semi-staged performance will feature a panel discussion and Q&A with the creators. Tickets are \$20; \$15 advance; \$10 students & seniors, at www.operaprojects.org.



Tenor **Thomas Wazelle** (New York Symphony Society, Israeli Opera, Tulsa Opera) and a cast of young singers from the Manhattan School of Music (MSM) perform Act II of the haunting love story *Henry's Wife* about a man who feels compelled to follow the orders of his deceased first wife-- who speaks to him in his dreams-- and risk losing his current family. The March 13 presentation at MSM will be part of the school's annual **New American Opera Previews: From Page to Stage** series hosted by WQXR's Midge Woolsey. **Scott Dunn** (Glimmerglass Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra) music directs with stage direction by **David Herskovits** (Artistic Director, Target Margin Theatre). Scenes from Encompass New Opera Theatre's *Angel of the Amazon* will also be performed.

On March 20, at South Oxford Space, *Henry's Wife* will be performed in a pairing with *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, a new opera that details the trial and demise of Nazi officer Adolf Eichmann, the infamous "architect of the Holocaust." *Eichmann*, the fifth installment in an operatic monodrama series: new works developed and/or commissioned and presented by AOP, will feature baritone Kyle Pfortmiller (De Nederlandse Opera, New York City Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre), with **Jody Schum** music directing and string quartet accompaniment.

The operas are the latest from AOP's First Chance series that presents concert performances of new operas in an intimate format that allows for direct conversation between audience and artist. Operas with scheduled fully staged premieres after passing through AOP's First Chance development program include *Séance on a Wet Afternoon* (New York City Opera, Opera Santa Barbara), *Before Night Falls* (Fort Worth Opera), and *Heart of Darkness* (London's Royal Opera

House), among many others.

The AOP Operatic Monodrama Series is a new initiative that aims to champion an operatic form that has been largely overlooked-- the one-act for solo voice. AOP will be commissioning and developing new monodramas by American composers, existing works newly translated/adapted into staged works in English, and reductions of existing monodrama scores to make them more viable for today's audiences and performable in a variety of locations. Projects: *The Abbot Agathon*, by Arvo Pärt, commissioned English version by Cori Ellison, first production Jan 2009 in partnership with Works and Process at the Guggenheim; *AbSynth* featuring composers Caleb Burhans, Florent Ghys, Kevin McFarland, Nico Muhly, Andrew Staniland and Stephen Andrew Taylor, first workshop production at Galapagos Art Space, April, 2010; *Our Basic Nature*, by John Glover and Kelley Rourke, first workshop at Jerome L. Greene Performance Space, December, 2010; *Nora, In The Great Outdoors*, by Daniel Felsenfeld and Will Eno, first workshop at South Oxford Space, February, 2011.

PROJECT INFO, ARTIST BIOS, AND PRESS MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT: www.operaprojects.org

END

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS presents

Henry's Wife

Concert reading of scenes from the opera in two acts, featuring panel discussion and Q&A with the creators

MUSIC: Randall Eng

LIBRETTO: Alexis Bernier

MUSIC DIRECTION: Scott Dunn

STAGE DIRECTION BY: David Herskovits

PIANO: Scott Rednour

PERFORMANCES BY: Thomas Wazelle, Nicholas Connolly, Allyson Herman, Meghan Picerno.

Eichmann in Jerusalem

Concert reading of scenes from the monodrama, featuring panel discussion and Q&A with the creators

MUSIC: Mohammed Fairouz

LIBRETTO: David Shapiro

MUSIC DIRECTION: Jody Schum

PERFORMANCE BY: Kyle Pfortmiller

Sunday, March 13, 2:30 p.m. (*Henry's Wife*)

Manhattan School of Music's Greenfield Hall

120 Claremont Avenue (at 122nd Street), New York, NY 10027

Subway—1 train to 116th St.

Bus-- M4 or M104 to 122nd St. and Broadway, M5 to 122nd St. and Riverside Dr.

Sunday, March 20, 7:00 p.m. (*Henry's Wife* and *Eichmann in Jerusalem*)

South Oxford Space, 138 South Oxford St., Brooklyn, NY 11237

Subway – C train to Lafayette Ave., G train to Fulton St., 2, 3, 4, 5, B, Q, or LIRR to Atlantic Avenue station or the D, N, or R trains to Pacific St.

Tickets: \$20; \$15 advance; \$10 students & seniors

Tickets and info available at www.operaprojects.org